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20P

ON THE BALL
Last chance to pick
a Fantasy XI and
win £10,000, page 40

The miracles amid
the mourning
Ben Macintyre, page 15



Why it should be easier
to divorce, and harder
to marry, page 16

THE TIMES

No. 65,251

WEDNESDAY APRIL 26 1995

Prisons chief studies US examples

Plan to build 'supermax' jail in Britain

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A NEW super-secure jail to hold all of Britain's most dangerous prisoners is being planned by the Government in the wake of escapes from Parkhurst and Whitemoor. Up to 300 of the most dangerous and violent prisoners would be held in the jail, modelled on American "supermax" prisons. In a reversal of a 30-year-old policy of moving high-security inmates around between six institutions, Derek Lewis, who has just had his contract as Director-General of the Prison Service extended, is spending this week touring American jails and boot camps with Michael Forsyth, the Prisons Minister, to see if any ideas can be adapted for Britain. Mr Lewis was widely expected to be replaced when his three-year contract expires at the end of this year, but Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will announce next month that he is to continue in his £125,000-a-year post until 1998. Mr Lewis's contract, which includes an additional performance-related element of up to 35 per cent of his annual salary, means that he will be a key figure in developing plans for either one or two "supermax" jails in England and Wales. Yesterday, he and Mr Forsyth visited Florence penitentiary in Colorado, where prisoners are kept in their cells

for 23 hours a day, and tomorrow they will visit Oak Park Heights in Minnesota, which has not had a serious escape attempt since it opened in 1982. Mr Lewis described Florence as "the state of the art in terms of security and control", and something that Britain had to consider. At the moment, Britain's most dangerous prisoners are housed regularly between six dispersal jails - Belmarsh, Parkhurst, Whitemoor, Full Sutton, Long Lartin and Brankland. In 1966, Lord Mountbatten of Burma recommended that one maximum security prison should be built on the Isle of Wight to hold 120 high-risk prisoners, but the idea was rejected through fears of disorder. Eighteen years later, the Home Office Control Review Committee criticised the "creaky mechanism" of the dispersal system and suggested that it would be better to house up to 400 inmates in one super-secure jail. Advances in technology have since shifted the argument further in favour of a single institution. Ministers now believe that a change of policy could save money in the long run by ending costly transfers, and Mr Forsyth is backing plans for a top-security prison. Mr Lewis said: "Obviously it would be expensive, but we would be able to focus all our efforts on one or two institu-



Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire performing to Irving Berlin's "Let's Face the Music and Dance" in *Follow the Fleet*

Dance star Ginger Rogers dies at 83

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

GINGER ROGERS, whose dancing with Fred Astaire dazzled generations of filmgoers, died yesterday at home in California. She was 83. Miss Rogers rose to stardom as a result of her legendary pairing with Astaire, which produced at least one film a year from 1933 to 1939. She was also a sought-after actress in her own right, appearing in a total of 73 films and winning the 1940 Oscar for Best Actress for her leading role in *Kitty Foyle*. Married and divorced five times, Miss Rogers died single and without children at the desert spa of Rancho Mirage, east of Palm Springs. She found solace in her devout faith in Christian Science, a faith that gave rise to some of the more eccentric pronouncements in

her 1991 autobiography, in which she credited Scientologists with curing several of her own and her husbands' ailments. Miss Rogers's incomparable dancing performances included those opposite Fred Astaire in *Flying Down to Rio* (her first), *Follow the Fleet*, *Swing Time*, *Shall We Dance* and *Carefree*. Born in 1911 in Independence, Illinois, Miss Rogers enjoyed a career in show business that spanned 65 years on the sound stages of Hollywood in its Golden Age, New York's vaudeville music halls and Broadway theatres, and even the West End. In the 1940s she was among the highest paid actresses in America, most frequently as an archetypal flaxen-haired heroine, as in such films as *Roxie Hart* and *Lady in the*

Dark. She hankered after more serious roles. "I felt I had the ability, talent and the willingness to play those roles," she said in one of her last interviews in 1991. "I said, 'Give me something that has some meat to it' - so they finally gave that to me in *Kitty Foyle*." For all her aspirations, she will be remembered for the unique grace and rhythm she and Fred Astaire brought to the musical numbers, which were always meticulously rehearsed for six weeks before shooting began. The pair always managed to appear effortless. In later life Ginger Rogers emerged periodically to mingle with Hollywood's glitterati, though one of her most public acts was to sue Federico Fellini, the director, for portraying her and Astaire

as lovers in his film *Ginger and Fred*. Instead, she called their cinematic match "just a wonderful happening. It wasn't planned. I thought it turned out to be magic."

Obituary, page 19



Oak Park Heights: no escapes since it opened in 1982

'Euro-pong' blows up British noses

By ALAN HAMILTON

LESS than two weeks before the nation celebrates 50 years of peace in Europe, the skies of Britain have been subjected to what smells like a poison gas

attack from the Continent. From East Anglia to the West Midlands, through Kent and London, householders have spent two days complaining to their local police and British Gas of an evil stench. On Monday night the eastern region of British Gas was swamped with 2,000 anxious calls. But there were no leaks. Instead, the problem was a low-pressure area over central Europe carrying European smells to the British Isles. Weathermen could not agree on whether the foul smells were the result of factory pollution in Germany, or Poland, or whether they had their origin in a pest bog in Denmark. The spreading of pig slurry on farms in the Copenhagen area was also suspected. A German Embassy spokesman in London commented: "We have very tight pollution laws in Germany, so I cannot understand these smells. "Fresh" air will return to day, when winds veer northerly.

Forecast, page 22

Beach fight to rescue killer whale

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

FIREMEN AND RSPCA experts were trying last night to save a killer whale beached in Kent in an event described by scientists as extremely rare. Passers-by at Pegwell Bay, near Ramsgate, were astonished to see the 12th female just 200 yards off the beach. Would-be rescuers dug a reservoir around the mammal and spent the afternoon pouring water over her to keep her cool and wet. Divers planned to refloat the whale at high tide last night. Killer whales are seen off Cornwall, Scotland and the Irish coast, but Dr Paul Jepson, co-ordinator for the Department of the Environment's marine mammal programme, said live strandings in southern England were "very rare". The reason for the stranding remains a mystery. One theory is that the whale's sonar was fuzed by the noise of engines in the Channel.

Photograph, page 22

Blair accuses Major of surrender to Euro-rebels

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday taunted the Prime Minister with hoisting the white flag of surrender over Downing Street as the Euro-rebels made a defiant return to the Conservative fold and hinted at the prospect of future rebellion on Europe. Mr Blair delivered a withering attack on the Prime Minister's leadership, accusing him of following rather than leading his party, after seven of the nine "whiplash" MPs walked back from the wilderness refusing to show any sign of repentance for their actions that have split the Conservative Party. Their refusal to give any guarantees about their future behaviour and their staging of what amounted to a victory parade at a press conference and series of media appearances provided Mr Blair with ammunition for an assault on the Prime Minister that had Labour MPs cheering wildly in the Commons. It also infuriated pro-European and loyalist MPs and ministers. Ray Whitney, a former minister, declared that

the rebels were "having a ball, they are on an ego trip". It emerged yesterday that Jonathan Aitken, one of the leading Euro-sceptics in the Cabinet, had played an important role in brokering the return of the rebels. He has held several conversations in recent weeks with Richard Shepherd, Sir Teddy Taylor and Nicholas Budgen, urging them to make their peace with the party. The clash between Mr Blair and Mr Major was one of their most bitter, Mr Blair told Mr Major he had failed to

secure even a minimal guarantee of loyalty. Mr Major pointed to Labour divisions on Europe. The Labour leader, clearly anticipating that response, delivered a put-down that even Tory MPs admitted later had wounded. He declared: "There is one very big difference: I lead my party, he follows his." After the uproarious applause had subsided Mr Blair added: "After all his tough talk in the beginning about no unity through appeasement, he has caved in, his party is still divided and the white flag flies over Downing Street."

Mr Major, initially taken aback, swiftly recovered: "I will give you a real difference. We have been leading in Europe. He will follow in Europe on every issue. He will follow Europe in undermining our veto, in renegotiating our rebate, in surrendering our opt out, in signing up to the Social Chapter, in higher tax. Continued on page 2, col 3

SPEAKING OUT
Our Westminster Parliament is in dire danger of being... supplanted by a European assembly controlled by a hotchpotch of European politicians and bureaucrats, who have no love for this country
Viscount Tonypantry writes. Letters, page 17

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Everyone wins when the punch-up is unscripted



Prescott: a neutered tom

THE Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader each received a huge cheer from his own side as they entered the chamber yesterday. Both strode confidently to the dispatch box. Both were in smashing form. Nobody won. Everybody was entertained. And the nation learnt something.

It was, for once, a gripping exchange. In recent months PM's Questions has been getting duller. With John Prescott, his neutered tom, beside him, Tony Blair has been lobbing freeze-dried, low-fat, vacuum-packed, reduced-calorie, monosodium glutamate-enhanced sound bites across the table, while John Major straight-bats

them gracefully back, obviously playing for a draw after tea, light fading behind the pavilion.

In Mrs Thatcher's day, PM's Questions was the show of the week. Maybe it assumed a rather silly prominence, but at least it was watchable. The chamber was always full. The relegation of the occasion to the status of sideshow is probably healthy, but bad news for sketch-writers. There have been growing patches of unoccupied green leather on both sides of the chamber.

But anyone playing hooky yesterday missed a treat. While Mr Blair studied his notes and fingernails, Mr Major warmed up on Ken

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Livingstone (Lab, Brent E) who wanted him to write to Bernard Manning and stop him saying "nigger" in entertainments for policemen; and on Sir James Spicer (C, Dorset W) who wanted him to condemn hot-moh-sex-cwells in the Armed Forces. The PM declined to get excited about either horror. He was saving his energy for the big spat.

Blair entered this gently, with a dig at what he called the "victory parade" of rebels returning to the Tory whip. What assurances of good

behaviour had they given their leader? Backbenchers squeaked and growled. "Calm down! All of you!" Miss Boothroyd barked.

The Prime Minister began equally gently, touched by Mr Blair's concern, then whipped out a list of rebellious Blair had himself faced from his own side, rapping out the numbers. He had been ready for this. But so had Blair. In one of his best comebacks this year, he brandished a fine, if prefabricated, sound bite. "I lead my party.

He follows his!" A roar of triumph from Labour was followed by an ironic howl from the Tories, pointing at Blair's own Euro-rebels on the bench below the gangway.

So far, Blair was winning on points. So far, both men were reading from scripts. Now came an impressive unscripted save from the PM. In a fluent and apparently impromptu rant, Major came back hard with a comparison between what he said was British leadership, and Labour's servility, over the EU. Tories squeaked with pleasure: was this a special homecoming treat for the rebels? People often say PM's Questions would be more use

if both men sought consensus and tried to be constructive. Maybe. But yesterday — confrontational and unashamedly negative — achieved at least this: anyone watching both leaders heard the first claim that the other led a divided party — and saw the rueful faces of supporters behind, registering the truth of this.

Then we heard the second leader-claim that the first also led a divided party — and saw the rueful faces behind him. We guessed that both leaders led divided parties, and knew it. We learnt something. Twenty minutes later we saw both men being wonderfully constructive over plans for VE-Day. We learnt nothing.

PM hints at 9% cut in power prices

A pre-election 9 per cent cut in electricity prices was hinted at yesterday by John Major. Confirming in the Commons that the Government was close to announcing a £3.5 billion privatisation of the country's most modern nuclear stations, the Prime Minister suggested the nuclear levy might be scrapped earlier than planned.

The 10 per cent levy on electricity bills to pay for decommissioning obsolete power stations is to expire in 1998. It has raised about £9 billion and ministers believe that could be enough to pay for phasing out the six remaining Magnox plants, which would stay in state hands, early in the next century.

Rail battle

Highland Regional Council began proceedings in the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday to institute a judicial review of British Rail's decision to close the Fort William-London sleeper service. The service, affectionately known as the "deerstalker express", has been in operation for almost a century and is to end next month.

Fire attacks

Incendiary devices sent to William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, and Tom King, the former Defence Secretary, were intercepted yesterday. The package, intended for Mr Waldegrave was addressed to him at his family's 1,000-acre farm near Chewton Mendip in Somerset. Mr King recently spoke in the Commons in defence of hunting.

Patients wait

Almost a quarter of those seeking hospital outpatient treatment are kept waiting more than six months for an appointment, a report published today by the National Audit Office says. The Patient's Charter, requires that all outpatients should be seen within 26 weeks and that nine out of ten people should be seen within 15 weeks.

Thalidomide call

Thalidomide victims met Department of Health chiefs yesterday to seek money to meet the escalating cost of their disabilities. Freddie Astbury, chairman of the Thalidomide Action Group, said the Government had a moral obligation to provide for victims' needs. The group fears a trust fund set up by the drug's maker will run out of cash.

BBC loses head

ITV has poached Nick Elliott, one of the BBC's programme executives, who was recruited by the corporation only eight months ago. He joined the BBC as head of drama series from London Weekend Television and has helped to revive the fortunes of popular drama series such as *Bugs* and *Hamish Macbeth*.

Holiday death

A British holidaymaker died and his three companions were injured when their boat exploded after being blown by a gale onto rocks off Corsica. Arthur Shepherd, 65, from Liverpool, and his friends had set off from the Cote d'Azur for the Greek Islands on Monday when their 12-metre sailing boat *The Pallas* was wrecked off Bonifacio.

FASHION TODAY

The summer uniform for smart women page 14

The Fashion page appears every Wednesday PLUS

Media, Property and property for sale, Secretarial Appointments, Simon Jenkins and Alan Coren

Tomorrow, Films

Friday, the Valerie Grove interview

Junior doctor wins compensation for 112-hour week

BY EMMA WILKINS AND JEREMY LAURANCE

A JUNIOR doctor who contemplated suicide because of depression caused by overwork is to receive compensation from a health authority.

The British Medical Association hailed the out-of-court settlement and said it could lead to similar actions by medical staff seeking redress over working conditions.

Dr Chris Johnstone, who began his action six years ago, accepted just over £5,000 from Camden and Islington Health Authority, which also agreed to pay costs estimated at £150,000. The case had been due to be heard at the High Court next week.

Dr Johnstone, 32, from Bristol, alleged that the health authority, which denied liability, had required him to work intolerable hours with so little sleep that he suffered from stress and clinical depression. "This is a tremendous victory not just for junior doctors but for all who are pushed beyond their limits in unsafe working conditions," he said after the settlement yesterday.

The health authority said it had offered the settlement purely on financial grounds, to avoid a costly two-week trial. "It was open to Dr Johnstone to ignore this payment and continue with his action if he felt he had a strong enough case against the authority. He chose instead to accept the money and abandon his claim for... nearly £70,000."

Dr Johnstone worked up to 112 hours a week as a senior house officer in obstetrics and gynaecology at University College Hospital, London. He said yesterday: "There were times when I was literally

dead on my feet my speech was slurred, I became depressed and considered life wasn't really worth living. "I felt tortured by lack of sleep... and at times even suicidal. I felt pushed beyond what could reasonably be expected of any human being. I regard myself as caring and conscientious, but at times I felt resentful to the patients for coming onto the wards and just being there."

After his request for extra staff on the ward was turned down, Dr Johnstone started legal action against the then Bloomsbury Health Authority. His decision was precipitated by a fear that he could endanger life because of his exhaustion.

Dr Johnstone's writ was served in March 1989, but his conditions at work did not improve. He decided to resign after falling asleep at the wheel of his car and writing it off. He later resumed his general practice training and now works in Bristol as a

group therapist for people with alcohol dependence and stress-related problems.

In December 1990, in an historic decision, the Court of Appeal ruled that Dr Johnstone's employer could not lawfully require him to work so much overtime in any week as was reasonably foreseeable that it would damage his health.

Widespread concern over junior doctors' hours led the Government to introduce the so-called New Deal, which set a maximum of 72 hours a week for those in hard-pressed posts such as obstetrics from the beginning of this year.

The Health Department said yesterday that hours had been slashed in the past six years and none now worked the hours that Dr Johnstone had. Fewer than 4,000 were contracted to work more than 72 hours a week, compared with more than 13,000 contracted for more than 83 hours in 1990.

But Dr Andrew Carney, chairman of the BMA's junior doctors committee, said the limit was widely ignored. "We know many more are working longer hours."

Peter Taylor, senior partner at Hemmings, the BMA's solicitors, said similar cases were in the pipeline. "If you have to work all weekend deprived of sleep it is humanly impossible. These junior doctors are abused. It is not a sensible way to run the NHS."

Dr Johnstone said that he had accepted the settlement because he felt he had won on principle and did not wish to impose further heavy costs on the NHS. "I was not in it for revenge or megabucks."

Ms Booth at Gray's Inn Square before the Silk Ceremony at the House of Lords

Johnstone: out-of-court deal

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Major taunted

Continued from page 1 es, more spending and more rape.

The exchanges came after seven of the rebels Teresa Gorman, Sir Teddy, John Wilkinson, Mr Shepherd, Christopher Gill, Mr Budgen and Tony Marlow confirmed their recommitment to the parliamentary party, hailing a "victory for democracy". Sir Richard Body and Michael Carttiss are expected to follow soon.

The rebels had enjoyed a final joint appearance in the limelight at a Westminster press conference. They threatened to "make their case by arguing and sometimes by voting" and suggested that Mr Major had made an error of judgment in depriving them of the whip. Mr Shepherd said: "We believe this to be an important acceptance by the Government that the decision to withdraw the whip from fellow Conservatives was a misjudgment."

Mr Budgen said the party had moved in a Eurosceptic direction. "They tried to wipe us out, they tried to get us de-selected and, but for the support of our constituencies, they

would have succeeded. This is very much a victory for parliamentary free speech."

Mrs Gorman declared: "We are not Guy Fawkes and we never intended to blow up the Conservative Party, but there are times in politics when you have to take a stand on principle." And Sir Teddy added: "We are now going to devote ourselves to do everything we can within the parliamentary party's institutions to strengthen policy in Europe."

Jeremy Hanley, the party chairman, said that no conditions were sought or given by the hierarchy for the return of the whip. But in remarks that appeared to accept that the rebels had advanced their cause, Mr Hanley said later that the whole party had learned from the experience.

"We have now got a much clearer view of our policy on Europe," he said on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* programme. He urged the MPs to work for party unity in the run-up to the next general election.

Peter Riddell, page 8
Leading article, and Letters, page 17

Sinn Fein denies arms agreement

By NICHOLAS WATT

GERRY ADAMS and Sir Patrick Mayhew were at odds last night over the de-commissioning of IRA arms, raising doubts about the Government's claim that exploratory ministerial talks could go ahead because Sinn Fein had changed its position.

Mr Adams criticised the Northern Ireland Secretary for insisting that the IRA must give up its weapons before Sinn Fein could be admitted to talks. "Sinn Fein and our voters cannot be held accountable for an organisation over which we have no control," he said.

Sir Patrick insisted that Sinn Fein had accepted that the talks would focus on the de-commissioning of arms, but Mr Adams said his party had yet to agree a formal agenda. Asked if he believed the IRA would hand over its weapons, he replied: "I would need to be convinced."

Leading article, page 17

GMB seals fate of old Clause 4

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR's drive to change Clause Four of Labour's constitution was on the verge of success last night after he won the backing of the GMB general union.

The 4-1 decision by the GMB executive council adds 12 per cent to the Labour leader's aggregate of the votes at Saturday's special party conference, which will consider his proposal to end the blanket commitment to common ownership.

He now commands 52 per cent of the conference in terms of union votes. Taking into account the immense support among constituency party members for change, the majority for the new Clause Four is running at about 2-1. Senior party figures hope that some unions opposed to change can be turned, but this would simply serve to increase Mr Blair's support — at about 64 per cent more.

The GMB executive decided that the Labour leader's re-wording of Clause Four con-

tained the commitment to full employment that the union had been seeking. John Edmunds, the general secretary, said: "The more you read the old Clause Four, the more inadequate it becomes."

The decision of the executive will be binding upon the GMB delegation on Saturday's conference. The delegations of some unions, such as the TGWU transport workers, can vote differently to the union's executive; the T & G executive has opposed Mr Blair's proposed changes.

Mr Blair's supporters had calculated that, had the GMB decided to oppose change, the vote at the conference would have been tight — but that he would still win. With the GMB opting to vote in favour, they believe it is all but impossible for Mr Blair to lose.

Figures from ballots of local party members show that 355 constituencies have now backed the rewritten Clause Four, with three opposing it.

Mackay to unveil no-fault divorce reforms

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor will outline proposals tomorrow for the reform of divorce laws. The concept of fault would be removed, "quickie" divorces scrapped, and mediation become the norm for most separating couples.

All divorcing couples would have to start the divorce process by attending a new first "port of call" information service, where they would be encouraged, but not required, to use mediation services. The idea builds on a system already working successfully

in Scotland. The service would be provided by a network of "information panels" throughout the country, probably run by groups of professionals. Couples would be told about the law and ways that they could reach agreement with the least acrimony and expense.

The proposals, to be outlined in a White Paper, will be closely linked to parallel reforms now being drafted for legal services and legal aid. Legally aided divorce is likely to be available only through franchised solicitors under block contracts from the Lord Chancellor's Department. Law firms

who offer mediation services as well as the traditional legal advice on divorce will be in a stronger position to be awarded a franchise than others, as mediation is seen as the key to reducing the costs of divorce-related litigation on the legal aid bill.

The White Paper proposals will replace the fault-based system of divorce that underpins many of the present lengthy and bitter court disputes. Couples would have a 12-month period of reflection after registering that they intend to divorce, to sort out arrangements for the children and their own finances. At present, 75 per

cent of couples favour the "quickie" procedure under which they can obtain a divorce in six months.

Under the new plans, the sole ground for ending a marriage would be irretrievable breakdown, with no need for couples to specify a more detailed ground.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern has succeeded in winning the backing of his Cabinet colleagues, who have been persuaded that the proposals strengthen, rather than damage, the Government's commitment to the family.

Simon Jenkins, page 16

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MAGAZINE

THE SIX SECTION TIMES

ON SATURDAY

Receptionist tells of 20-minute lecture on temptations of holiday in sun with boyfriend

Boss demanded staff sign chastity contract

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN who joined a company run by fundamentalist Christians was required to sign an undertaking that she would not live with her boyfriend. But she told an industrial tribunal, when she later announced her engagement, she was dismissed because the family firm did not approve of married women working.

Lesley Jordan, 30, said that all unmarried staff had to promise that they would not set up home with their lovers. Any breach of the undertaking was regarded as gross misconduct and ground for instant dismissal from the company, run by Brian Long and his son Richard, who belonged to the Plymouth Brethren sect.

Miss Jordan is claiming sexual discrimination over the loss of her job last August with NMC Workwear of Doncaster. The company denies having a policy opposed to working wives and says that Miss Jordan was made redundant after it hit a cash crisis.

Miss Jordan told the Sheffield tribunal that the company, which she joined in 1991 as a receptionist, laid down strict rules for staff. Sales representatives were banned from playing music in their cars and women were not allowed to wear trousers.

"They all had Bibles on their desks and then Brian and

Richard put one on my desk and later asked me to go to meetings," she said. Four of the seven staff were members of the Brethren.

When Miss Jordan asked for time off for a holiday in Rhodes with her boyfriend, Ian McGreiv, 32, Brian Long questioned her closely and gave her a 20-minute lecture. He asked me if we would be sleeping in the same room on holiday and then said that Ian was obviously hot-blooded, normal male and would be unable to resist having sex if we shared a room.

"He said it would be hot and we would be sexually clad and the temptation would be too strong for both of us. I was a bit shocked, but he carried on lecturing me, saying they did not believe in sex before marriage and talking about the sins of the flesh. I couldn't believe it, it was as if I was in a time warp."

In 1993 she moved in with Mr McGreiv and left the firm but the following year she went home to her parents and the company offered her a job as sales office co-ordinator, after first asking if she was still living with her boyfriend.

Last June she told the Longs that she was marrying Mr McGreiv. To her surprise the news was given a frosty reception. She said: "I knew their



Brian Long

views on the sanctity of marriage and I thought they would be pleased." She claimed that Brian Long told her: "You will have to leave because we don't believe in married women working." He agreed to let her stay until Christmas as she would not be getting married for a year, but two months later she was handed her pay cheque and told she could go. Redundancy was not mentioned, Miss Jordan said.

Brian Long told the hearing that the clause in the contract barring cohabitation had been removed at the beginning of

this year. He denied there was a ban on married women working at the firm, and said married women had been employed there. The tribunal reserved its decision.

After the hearing, Miss Jordan said: "I have another job now, though the pay is poorer, but I felt I had to make a stand. I don't think these people should be allowed to make unreasonable demands of employees." The Longs declined to comment.

There are 14,000 Plymouth Brethren in Britain out of a world membership of 35,000. The sect began in the early 19th century in Dublin, establishing itself in Plymouth in 1828. It has no hierarchy, believing that ecclesiastical orders are not warranted by the Bible, whose teachings they accept absolutely.

Much of what is commonly accepted in the secular world is considered evil and members tend to associate chiefly with each other. The use of television and broadcasting is frowned upon, although newspapers are tolerated. Restaurants, theatres and dancing are forbidden. Holidays are usually taken within the sect.

Members' children do not join in communal worship at school or have lessons involving computers, which are opposed by the sect. They leave school at 16 and universities are regarded with distrust.



Lesley Jordan leaving the tribunal with Ian McGreiv. Her employer's views were in a time warp, she said

Cats called to give evidence in court

TWO cats are to be called to "give evidence" in a legal battle over their ownership. The reaction of Lucky, 5, and its one-year-old offspring, Blackie, will help to decide who should care for them.

Brighton O'Neill is suing the O'Neills, who took the cats from a neighbour's garden last September. The charity claims they were dirty and neglected, but Mrs O'Neill says the pets were "cat-napped" and that she has been denied access.

In a private hearing at Walsall County Court on Monday, a judge agreed the animals should be present when the case is heard in open court to see their reactions to Mrs O'Neill and her children Kirsty, 15, and Curtis, 17.

Mrs O'Neill, 36, of Walsall, said: "I had Lucky for five years and I am sure she will know who I am when it comes to court, but I doubt if Blackie will. I am suing for damages and want the cats back. They went missing from our neighbour's garden and we spent seven weeks looking for them."

Katie Mathewman, of the league, expressed concern about the welfare of the animals. "If it is a ruling of the court, then we are bound to comply, but there would be some concern about how beneficial the experience would be," she said.

Railwoman in love letters case loses claim

By PAUL WILKINSON

A RAIL conductress who developed a passionate crush on a young train driver and sent him sexually explicit extracts from a novel she had written lost her claim for sexual discrimination yesterday.

She had based her complaint to a Leeds industrial tribunal on her assertion that harassment of her by railmen was not treated equally as seriously. She was ordered to pay £250 costs as she had been told at a preliminary hearing that her claim was misconceived to law.

The driver and two other train crew had originally complained about harassment by the woman and she was sacked last September. The case, the first in which a woman was dismissed for sexual harassment, attracted huge publicity but yesterday an industrial tribunal ordered that none of those involved should be identified.

Bill Hewitt, a Regional Railways North Eastern spokesman, said that the men had been exonerated. "We would like to add that the drivers who have suffered with their families throughout this very distressing affair, emerged without a blemish on their character."

The 39-year-old conductress from Harrogate was

sacked after one of the men became the butt of jokes among his colleagues in Leeds. She called her book *A Blonde After the Band* driver, a 32-year-old father, she described as "so damn sexy".

The woman called herself The Wicked Witch of the North as gossip spread around the canteen at Leeds station that she had bombarded the targets of her desire with letters and cards.

After the hearing the woman remained defiant and promised to publish her book, the names and the allegations. She said that she had "fancied the pants off" the driver. "I had regularly fantasised about him. All this passion had been boiling up inside me for over a year. I wrote the novel to put into words what had happened between me and him."

She had told the hearing that she was made to "carry the can" after canteen banter went too far. "While I faced an almost interrogation-style interview when allegations were made about me, the other drivers' denial was accepted almost straight away."

"Afterwards this driver bragged to me that any complaint I made would seem like sour grapes and be treated lightheartedly."

Guest died in firebomb attack on noisy party

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A WOMAN fell 13 floors to her death after a man with a "disproportionate hatred of noise" threw a petrol bomb into a flat where a noisy party was in full swing at 2.45am, it was alleged yesterday.

John Bevan, for the prosecution, told an Old Bailey jury that Peter Thurston, 34, donned a balaclava, armed himself with a machine-pistol and a bag full of petrol-soaked newspaper, before confronting the partygoers in a tower block in Leyton, east London.

The fire spread quickly through the flat and the guests panicked as the attacker smashed open the fusebox and cut the electricity, plunging the flat into darkness. Many guests climbed out of the kitchen window on to the balcony. Donna O'Dwyer, 26, fell to her death.

Mr Thurston, a British Telecom engineer, denies murder, arson and causing grievous bodily harm. In his flat police found a machine-pistol and a petrol can. The trial continues.

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Lottery equipment confiscated after customers say cards were marked

Claims of cheating investigated by Instant's organiser

By LIN JENKINS

INVESTIGATORS for the National Lottery have confiscated equipment from a retailer selling Instant's cards after several customers complained that their cards had apparently been tampered with and others realised that few, if any, winning cards had been bought at the shop.

Investigators are examining another three outlets after people alleged that they were being denied the chance to buy winning cards in the game, which has attracted average sales of £20 million a week.

All the cases under investigation came to light as a result of customers' complaints rather than detection by Camelot, the lottery organiser.

Police mounted a guard on a newsagents shop run by Dilip Patel in Salisbury yesterday as customers congregated out-

side. Mr Patel has not opened his shop since the National Lottery investigators removed equipment.

Kim Bryan, 29, said when she noticed that one had been tampered with and refused to accept it. Mr Patel allegedly said that his son had been playing with the card and accidentally rubbed part of it off.

Camelot is embarrassed by the apparent simplicity of the fraud. Retailers can detect winning tickets by scratching the card to reveal the four-digit security code and running it through their machine to establish if it is a winning ticket. Those giving a prize, of up to £50,000, can be kept and only non-winning tickets sold to customers.

The sophisticated computer system designed to detect fraud failed to uncover the

alleged cheating. Camelot has removed equipment from the shop and passed a report of its investigation to Wiltshire Police.

Camelot maintains that the computer will uncover fraud by detecting terminals in outlets where winning tickets are not put through. A spokesman said it operates on the principle that any cheating retailer would take his winning tickets to another outlet to claim his prize.

David Rigg, director of communications for the company, said: "You always have at the beginning various scams," while insisting that they would be detected and stamped out. "I would warn any retailers thinking of cheating that we will catch them and fall on them like a ton of bricks and they will be in big



The four-digit code on the lower right corner of a card will verify a winning ticket

trouble when we have caught them."

Customers have been asked to check their cards to make sure they have not been tampered with. However, with more than 20,000 outlets selling tickets, the company believes the amount of fraud to be minimal and of a crude and easily detectable nature.

"Nearly all retailers have been behaving and acting honestly and the game has been well received. We hope that the public will continue to have confidence since we are acting on the minor incidents we have had," Lisa Bond, a spokeswoman for Camelot, said.

Any person who can prove

they were sold a ticket that had been tampered with will have their stake money returned. There are no plans to compensate those buying tickets at Mr Patel's shop.

A spokesman for Wiltshire Police said they were aware of the operation carried out by Camelot, but had not received a formal complaint or a copy of the report of the company's investigation.

The police guard at the newsagents shop was arranged to avoid a possible breach of the peace. Inspector Joy Robertson said Mr Patel had been the victim of racial incidents in the past. "We are here in case there is a problem."

Camelot is also investigat-

ing an alleged fraud in Scotland connected to the weekly lottery.

More than 144 million tickets have been sold since the scratch card game was launched on March 21 and £78 million has been paid in prize money.

Camelot aims to achieve sales of more than £32 billion on a variety of games during its seven-year contract to run the National Lottery.

The average of £5.5 billion a year in sales will be met only when all the instant games are launched and variations on the weekly draw are introduced.

Letters, page 17

Parents to blame for children's eating disorders

By LUCY BERRINGTON

EATING disorders in adolescents are often directly related to the state of family relationships, a conference was told yesterday.

Dr Simon Gowers, senior lecturer in psychiatry at Manchester University, told the second International Conference on Eating Disorders in London that over-protective and uncommunicative parents were more likely to raise children who would suffer from anorexia and bulimia nervosa.

The topics of children who became anorexic were also far more likely than others to have been preceded by stillbirths, cot deaths and miscarriages.

Dr Gowers said that poor communication skills and inadequate problem-solving in families were significant factors in promoting eating disorders. Family members were often unaware of or unable to admit to relationship difficulties. He cited a 14-year-old girl from a professional family who developed anorexia after being sexually abused by her grandfather. She confided in her mother, who responded by sending her to boarding school. When interviewed by doctors, the girl reported no difficulties with problem-solving in the family. "Her parents lacked the insight that the problems with anorexia were directly related to family difficulties."

The conference was also told that women who suffered from eating disorders were more likely to raise physically stunted children. The children of anorectics and anaemias were particularly prone to wasting, obesity and stunted growth, according to Dr Sami Tinni of The Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street, London.

The research has added to fears that Western mothers, including those without a history of eating disorders, are increasingly keen to produce slim children. In a multicultural study of families attending a London clinic, while British mothers raised "average" girls slimmer than those they considered "healthy", those mothers found slimmer in daughters more desirable than mothers from Asian and Caribbean backgrounds. Dr Matthew Hodes, senior lecturer in child psychiatry at St Mary's Hospital, London, said: "There is evidence that mothers who dislike body fat are communicating that attitude to their children."

Children's teeth painted to cut decay

Hundreds of Scottish children are to take part in trials designed to cut tooth decay. The 1,200 children, from 30 schools in Tayside, are to have their teeth varnished with a protective film to stop the sugars that cause decay penetrating the teeth.

The three-year trials, costing almost £500,000, are being carried out jointly by the department of dental health at Dundee University and the Canadian manufacturers of Chlorzoxin varnish. Professor Nigel Pitts, head of the department, said: "It is a fairly radical experiment. If successful it could have revolutionary consequences."

Comic mourned

Television stars were among mourners at the funeral at Aldershot, Hampshire, of Arthur English, the comedian who died last week aged 75. Molly Sugden, co-star with him in *Are You Being Served?* said: "He was a good actor with fabulous timing."

Robbers targeted

Scotland Yard and the British Retail Consortium have launched a campaign to combat the 14,000 robberies from shops every year. An intelligence centre will sift data supplied by victims for evidence of crime patterns and alert local police.

Dutchmen jailed

Two Dutchmen who ferried Turkish Kurds across the North Sea were jailed by Norwich Crown Court. William Holman, 43, and Evert Lenos, 49, admitted helping four Kurds to enter Britain illegally. Lenos was given five years and Holman 4½.

'Kray pub' sale

The Blind Beggar, the pub in Whitechapel, east London, where Ronnie Kray shot dead George Cornell in 1966, is to be sold. The lease, Peter Ferdinando, 57, is to retire to Wapping. He said that, to the pub had no bullet holes.

Pig champion

Martin Suell, a farmer from Muddiford Sock, Somerset, is training his pigs to jump over obstacles for next month's One Man and His Pig competition at the Royal Bath and West Show. He hopes to prove that pigs are brighter than people think.

Political violence 'scares children'

By CATHERINE MILTON, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN today are more frightened about violent conflicts such as those in Bosnia and Northern Ireland than the dentist and horror films, a new survey shows.

War, bombs and guns are among children's main fears, the survey of 2,000 children, aged between seven and twelve has disclosed, a big change from their parents' generation. Only spiders and the dark have remained consistently scary over the past two decades.

Kleshna Handel, of Handel Communications, which compiled the report with Carrick James Market Research, said: "The effect that the media has had on children has caused this change in trends. Bosnia and Ireland have been in their sitting-rooms since they were born. Kids do not have the judgment of grown-ups and

therefore the coverage has a different effect."

She added: "The seven to 12-year-olds are light years from the cosy generation of Blythe, reading, picnic-eating and cooing youngsters my generation remembers. Many have seen at first hand the hardship and domestic trauma caused by unemployment, marital break-up and financial problems."

Crime now heads their list of domestic concerns. Many children no longer play in the street, where they do not feel safe, and spend much time in their bedrooms watching television, playing with video consoles or computers.

If children do go out for the day, they like to go shopping, to the cinema or to see friends. The children of 20 years ago would have chosen the seaside and other outdoor activities.

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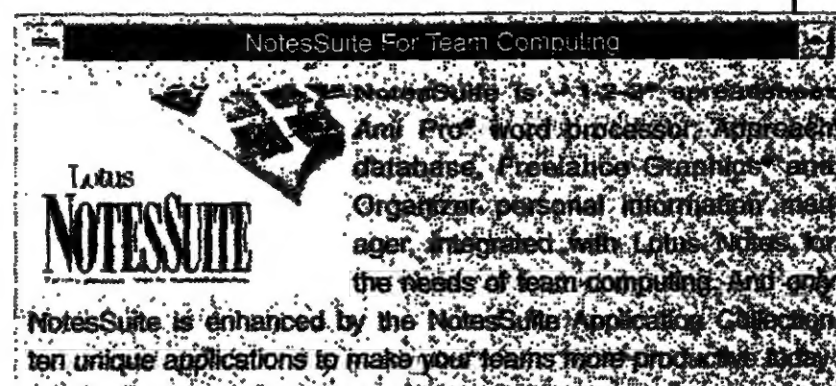
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Part-time painters provide 3,000 graphic examples to celebrate the skills of everyman



Jan Leeming, who took up painting three years ago, adds a finishing touch

National exhibition highlights brush strokes of Sunday artists

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AMATEUR artists, competing against the attractions of mass-produced prints, photography and gallery art, will be celebrated this week in an exhibition of 3,000 works.

In what its organisers say is the largest show of its kind, 2,000 Sunday painters will display their works at the Royal Horticultural Halls in Victoria, London. The exhibition, opening today, is being staged by the Society of Amateur Artists, which was launched in 1992 "to inform, encourage and inspire all who want to paint".

Celebrity offerings include delicate flower-studies in watercolour by Dame Vera Lynn, an oil, *From the Garden*, by Dame Catherine Cookson, and a pencil sketch of a French peasant done by Sir Harry Secombe in 1949.

The society believes there are two million amateur artists across the country. One survey has suggested that the number of artists working away at easels propped up in kitchens and gardens, rather than garrets, may be as high as six million.

John Hope-Hawkins, the society's administrator, said: "We are trying to encourage people just to do it. We believe anyone can. We can't



Celebrity offerings: the head of a French peasant by Sir Harry Secombe, and a watercolour flower study by Dame Vera Lynn, who will open the show



make people creative, but they can learn to be technically competent — to hang something on the wall that they're pleased with."

The London show has no preselection, no vetting. Anything and everything goes. If artists want to create a pile of bricks or place a sheep in formaldehyde, they would be encouraged to do so.

Mr Hope-Hawkins said, "...if it gives them amusement". But this is really a painting show, and most of the works are figurative, consisting largely

of landscapes, seascapes and still-lives.

Belying the "amateur" label, today's Sunday painters are in good company. Gauguin was a stockbroker when he offered *View at Virolay* to the 1876 Impressionist Exhibition. L. S. Lowry was a rent collector for the Pall Mall Property Company. Manchester, until he retired in the 1950s, he kept his art to himself, ashamed of being thought a Sunday painter. Then there is the shining example of Winston Churchill, who took up painting in his middle years.

The artists in the exhibition range in age from 14 to 93.

Gerald Pitchforth, a retired banker, is the oldest. "Painting is my best hobby, and keeps me in good health," he said. Mr Hope-Hawkins, emphasising the therapeutic value of art, lamented that local authorities had stopped funding art evening classes, unless vocational. "That has left a great void for a lot of people."

Other celebrity artists include the television presenter Jan Leeming. She described taking up painting three years ago, long after weekly art classes at school, when "most girls filled in between school and marriage and a career in art wasn't even thought about".

At the insistence of a friend, she signed up for lessons in painting and drawing at her local adult education centre. "I was absolutely smitten by it all," she said, adding that there was talent in all of us. "You don't know what you've got until you try." She spoke of being inspired by "the artists I can't copy. I love Turner, because I do watercolours, and the Impressionists. I'm really old-fashioned... Goya, Cézanne, pictures that tell a story." She now is taking private lessons in drawing animals — particularly leopards and cheetahs, her favourites.

Another artist on the celebrity wall will be Jo Keating-Dawson, the sister of Tom Keating, the master forger unmasked over his "Samuel Palmers". Her works are copies of copies. She was inspired by her brother's versions of Constable's *Hay Wain*, Degas' *Dancers* and Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*. The exhibition ends on Saturday.

Bacon portrait settles £680,000 tax demand

BY JOHN SHAW

A PAINTING by Francis Bacon has been given to the nation in settlement of £680,000 inheritance tax on his estate, it was announced yesterday. *Study for a Portrait*, an oil on panel, was painted a year before the artist died in 1992.

Christie's, which negotiated the deal, said the 78in by 58in painting of a man with a camera tripod showed the height of his artistic powers in his later years.

Bacon is widely represented in public collections and since his death his work has been the subject of several retrospectives. The auction record for Bacon was set by a triptych which made £3.7 million at Sotheby's in 1990. A portrait sold for £3.6 million at Christie's in 1989.

The portrait is one of 27 works of art accepted in lieu of tax totalling £6 million in 1994-95, compared with 18 works the previous year. The acceptance in lieu procedure has saved many items from going abroad. It is administered by the Museums and Galleries Commission on behalf of the Government. Peter Longman,

director of the commission, said: "This has been a year of considerable progress for the scheme, which we have been running for ten years. We are delighted with the number of items that have been accepted, with the wide range of objects involved and the wide variety of institutions which have benefited."

Under the procedure, Chagall's *L'Artiste dans son Atelier* and *Les Femmes d'Alger* (O. J. S. *Condition Humaine* go to the Castle Museum, Norwich. They settle tax of £665,000 on



Study for a Portrait

the estate of Lady Adeane, a notable benefactor of the arts in East Anglia. The studio of F. E. McWilliam and its contents have been given to the local authority at his birthplace, Banbridge, Co. Down, where they will form the nucleus of a sculpture centre.

Six studies by Naum Gabo will be presented to the Tate Gallery in settlement of £979,616 tax. Chateaux at Pyramus House at Handcross, West Sussex, have been accepted in lieu of £177,500 tax and will enable large portions of the house to be opened to the public. The property, best known for its garden, is owned by the National Trust. A silver gilt wine fountain, in settlement of £770,000 tax, stays in situ at Calke Abbey, Derbyshire, another National Trust property. A rare silver kettle with stand has been given to the National Museum of Wales.

Also taken in lieu of tax were paintings and drawings by Turner, Klee and Picasso, two archives of historical papers, a library of books on Islamic pottery, and the contents of country houses in Grampian and Derbyshire.

Two feared dead in dive on Second World War wreck

BY A STAFF REPORTER

POLICE frogmen renewed the search yesterday for two divers missing on the wreck of a ship sunk off the Scottish coast in the Second World War. However, the father of one of the men said he accepted that his son must be dead.

David Waterhouse, 29, and David Weaver, 26, were diving on Monday for the 1,000-tonne supply ship *SS Breda*, which lies 60 feet down in Ardmuckish Bay, Strathclyde. A third diver from the Dragon Diving Club in North Wales lost contact with them while they were exploring the ship's hold and raised the alarm when they failed to surface.

Oban coastguard scrambled a Royal Navy helicopter from Preswick, and Oban lifeboat and several other diving boats carried out a search, but no trace was found of the missing divers.

Mr Weaver's father Geoff,

53, was preparing yesterday to travel to Scotland to see if the seven-strong team of police divers could find his son.

Speaking at the family's bungalow at Nerwys, Clwyd, he said: "In all reality we have given up hope of ever seeing him again. I think he is almost certainly dead. We are heartbroken to have lost him because he was such a wonderful son who everyone loved."

"David loved the outdoors and especially the freedom of the sea. He adored the water and was into all kinds of sports, including surfing. But his real passion was diving and outside his business it was virtually his life."

He said that his son was a qualified instructor who had been diving for more than ten years.

He was a bachelor, lived with his parents, and had two sisters, Susan, 28, and Helen, 24. He ran his own business as a plumber and heating engineer.

The family of Mr Waterhouse, from Connah's Quay, Clwyd, have already travelled to Scotland.

Oban coastguards said that diving on the wreck was hazardous because it was silted up and visibility was almost nil. Police at Oban said that parts of the *Breda* were unstable and diving parties were warned about the danger.

Owners of fish farms vote to kill cormorants

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY

FISHERY managers risk prosecution after voting to shoot cormorants, the protected seabirds that they say are destroying their freshwater stock.

The call to arms against the "black plague" was issued yesterday by the Commercial Coarse Fisheries Association, whose members run stillwater fish farms and angling centres. About 40 delegates unanimously passed a motion promising the association's support for any member who "deems it necessary" to shoot cormorants to protect stock without first applying for a government permit.

Colin Bourner, the association's secretary, said: "Cormorants are consuming vast amounts of fish and there is no way they can co-exist in the long run with our fisheries. We simply cannot afford to sit back and watch our livelihood being destroyed."

He is advising all his members to make use of the so-called "farmer's defence" clause in the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, which allows landowners to shoot birds and other predators endangering crops or livestock.

Cormorants are thought to have been driven inland by dwindling fish supplies in estuaries and other coastal waters. The birds have been lured by easy pickings in heavily stocked fisheries.

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Independent heads give parents pledge on small classes

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

HEADS of independent schools added to the furore over class sizes yesterday by announcing a drop in the number of pupils per member of staff and promising to maintain small groups, even at the cost of higher fees.

The independent sector's share of school places fell last year, although the school-age population has grown. But there was a surge in demand for places at private day schools to offset the continuing fall in boarding.

The annual census by the Independent Schools Information Service, which represents 80 per cent of the sector, showed 509 fewer pupils than in January 1994. The 0.1 per cent drop to 461,844 was the smallest for three years.

Class sizes have increased in

state schools, but the independent sector has moved in the opposite direction because of a slight improvement in staffing levels. Independent schools had 12.3 pupils for each teacher in January, compared with 13.1 in 1990. In state schools, the ratio worsened from 16.9 pupils per teacher in 1990 to 18.1 last year.

David Woodhead, director of Isis, said: "Educationalists and politicians argue whether class size matters. Parents don't: they want individual attention for their children and that means for many children smaller teaching groups. Fee increases are the price parents pay for generously staffed schools, as well as updated facilities."

Fees rose by 4.2 per cent last year, compared with a rise in

average earnings of 3.7 per cent. The average boarding fee is £3,415 a term and fees for day pupils average £1,462 a term. The schools said that last year's fee increase exceeded inflation because the bill for teachers' pay rose by up to 5 per cent.

Leaders of the five main independent school associations rejected suggestions that class sizes might be allowed to rise to hold fees down. Parent surveys have shown that class size ranks with examination results and discipline among the chief reasons for sending children into independent education.

Paddy Holmes, chairman of the Independent Schools Association Incorporated, said the brightest children could benefit from the interaction in large classes. But smaller groups were essential to produce the remarkable results achieved by "truly average" children in the independent sector.

Hugh Wright, chairman of the Headmasters' Conference, said present staffing levels allowed independent schools to give teachers more time out of the classroom. "If you wish teachers to take part in the extracurricular life of the school, they ought not to have all their energy and time taken up with teaching academic subjects."

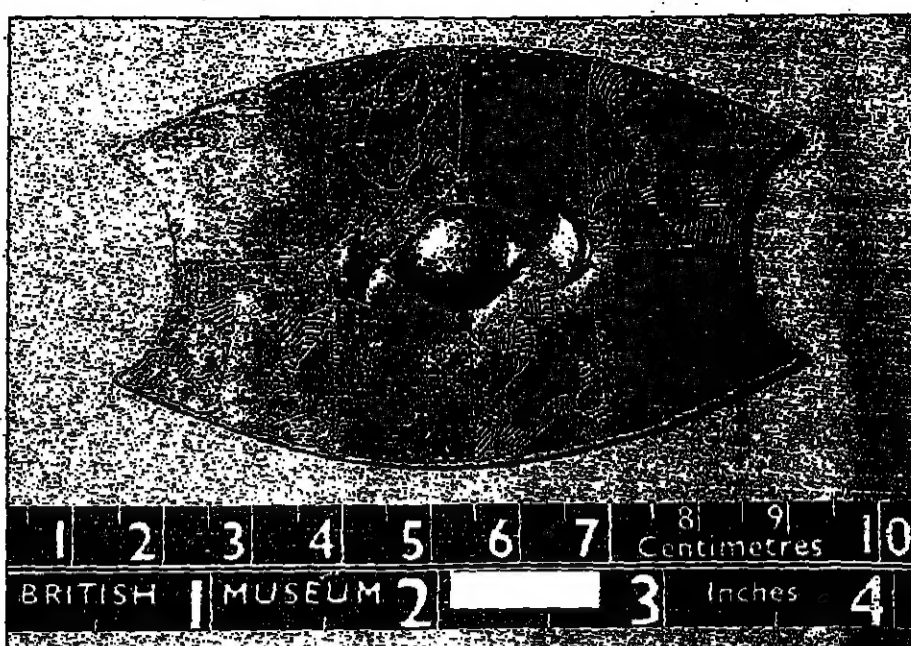
More than 28 per cent of pupils at independent schools now receive help with fees, from school funds, education authorities or the Government's assisted places scheme. The increased amounts available in scholarships and bursaries, likely to total more than £50 million this year, ensured that more pupils were not lost by the sector during the recession. But boarding has continued to decline.

Preparatory schools have been hardest hit. This January, there were fewer than 1,200 full boarders at the age of eight and fewer than 2,000 aged ten.

Independent schools report more applications for places this year and next, despite an expected 4 per cent rise in fees.

Leading article, page 17

Former Tory treasurer unwitting link in chain, jury told



Terence Rossiter, left, John Cummings and James Garriock deny dishonest roles over 20 tiny rare shields dating from 200 BC, such as that shown above

Lord McAlpine 'was sold stolen Iron Age relics'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

LORD MCALPINE of West Green sold 20 Iron Age decorative shields to the British Museum for £55,000 without realising they were stolen, a court was told yesterday.

A keeper at the museum became worried when the peer and former treasurer of the Conservative Party was unable to detail their provenance. A five-year investigation began, it ended with three men appearing at Knightsbridge Crown Court, central London.

Lord McAlpine, a collector of antiquities, bought the items from a dealer for an undisclosed sum in 1985 and sold them to the museum in 1988. They were part of the "Salisbury hoard" of 500 Iron and Bronze Age artefacts, found in a ploughed field by two men using metal detectors without the landowner's knowledge and secretly sold on, the court was told.

Lord McAlpine, the party's deputy chairman in Baroness Thatcher's first Government, is not expected to be called to give evidence about his unwitting involvement in the trail of dishonesty alleged by

Jonathan Laidlaw, for the prosecution. He said that among items Lord McAlpine had bought from Maurice Braham, an antiquities dealer, were some 20 miniature shields. "These are extremely rare pieces of some value. Their provenance was unknown and Lord McAlpine was unable to tell the museum who had found them." Dr Ian Stead, deputy keeper of the prehistoric Romano-British collection, contacted dealers worldwide.

Mr Laidlaw, describing the Salisbury hoard, said: "It appears that some time around 200 BC, somebody collected together at least 500 examples of Bronze and Iron Age work. For some reason that collector, male or female, then buried the collection on the site of an Iron Age settlement, possibly for religious or pagan reasons, maybe as a sacrifice."

James Garriock, 42, a gardener, and Terence Rossiter, 47, unemployed, both of Salisbury, deny theft. John Cummings, 48, a dealer of Poston, Lincolnshire, denies dishonest handling. The case continues.

Overseas intake 'dilutes character'

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BOARDING schools that turn increasingly to foreign pupils to compensate for declining numbers risk forfeiting their traditional character, according to experts.

Independent schools have been quick to tap the overseas market since the recession and changing fashions have caused a 15 per cent slump in boarder numbers in three years. But the pace of change is alarming both foreign and British parents and several schools have had to introduce informal limits for foreign pupil numbers.

Overseas pupil numbers increased by almost 8 per cent last year, according to the Independent Schools Information Service census published yesterday. One in five boarders now comes from abroad and numbers have risen by almost one third over three years in the 240 leading schools that make up the Headmasters' Conference.

David Dowdles, deputy head of Bradfield College in

Berkshire, said that some boarding schools were sacrificing their traditional ethos by increasing numbers too quickly. He said Bradfield had introduced an upper limit of 7.5 per cent of the roll for foreign pupils. But he acknowledged that it was difficult for a school struggling for survival to turn pupils away.

Roger Perrin, headmaster of St Bede's School, Hailsham, East Sussex, said about one third of its pupils had come from overseas since it opened 17 years ago. He said that the school was carefully organised to take account of the needs of foreign pupils and, for example, gave great priority to teaching English as a second language.

Mr Perrin said: "People are rushing around the world, going to Hong Kong and Russia, and coming back with 25 pupils or so to save their cash-flow haemorrhage. Unless those pupils' needs are being met that's not absolutely right."

Can the Mexican yam be a patch on HRT?

By DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

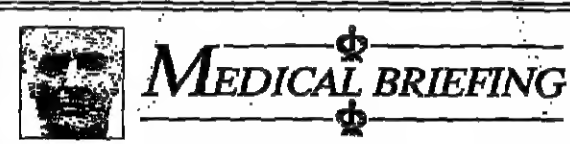
IN LATER life, one in four women suffers from osteoporosis, or loss of bone density. It causes 150,000 fractures a year that result in 43 premature deaths a day and costs the health service about £750 million annually. HRT taken for five to ten years reduces the toll by 60 per cent, preserves a youthful countenance, rids women of menopausal symptoms and has a beneficial effect on heart and arteries.

HRT is not without its problems, however, although statistically it saves a great many more lives than it costs. There are worries about the effect on the incidence of breast cancer and hormone

replacement does, in some cases, perpetuate the monthly mood swing.

There is now a natural alternative on offer: the yam, that staple of Victorian travellers' tales which, it seemed, was capable of sustaining village life when all other crops had failed. It is not recommended that the yam, and in particular the Mexican yam, be taken in tablet form, or applied as transdermal patches. Instead, an extract of Mexican yam has been prepared as a gel to be smeared on any soft skin such as that found over the lower abdomen, the inner thighs, or breast.

The advocates of yam gel



claim that it is rich in a natural progesterone hormone that will relieve menopausal symptoms and strengthen the bones. A spokesman for the company marketing the yam gel claims that many people have used it, are satisfied with the result and that their opinion has been supported by observation if not by scientifically conducted trials.

The opponents of yams as a cure for the menopause say that progesterone, natural or

not, has never been a proven treatment for menopausal symptoms, and in particular not for osteoporosis. They are worried that women might be encouraged to discontinue tried and tested treatments.

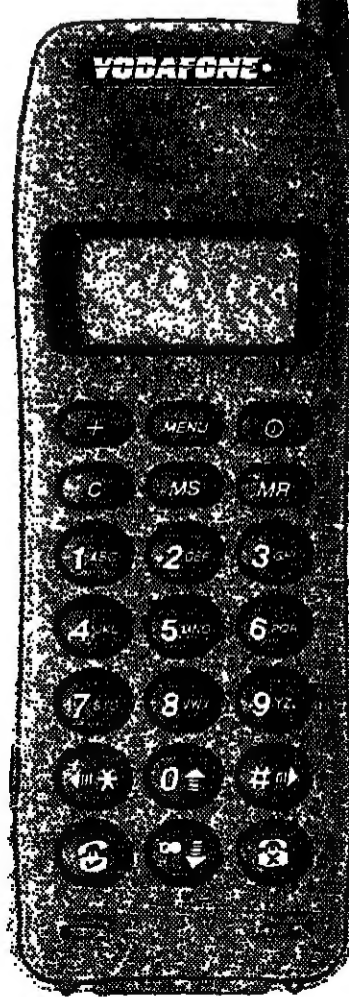
A spokesman for the National Osteoporosis Society said: "It would be wonderful if yam gel controlled osteoporosis, but this is the first time that anybody has suggested that progesterone, natural or synthetic, can do this and so far there has been

no evidence to show that it can. It would be outrageous if fears about HRT were exaggerated so that women didn't receive the treatment they need."

Dr John Stevenson, chairman of the British Menopause Society, is equally discouraging. "No leading medical journal has ever published any data to support the idea that the natural progesterone in yams can control either menopausal symptoms or osteoporosis. Conversely, one reputable study did show that progesterone, which usually has to be taken as part of HRT, has no influence on bone density."

Dr Stevenson would be well advised, in this instance, to stay with traditional medicine.

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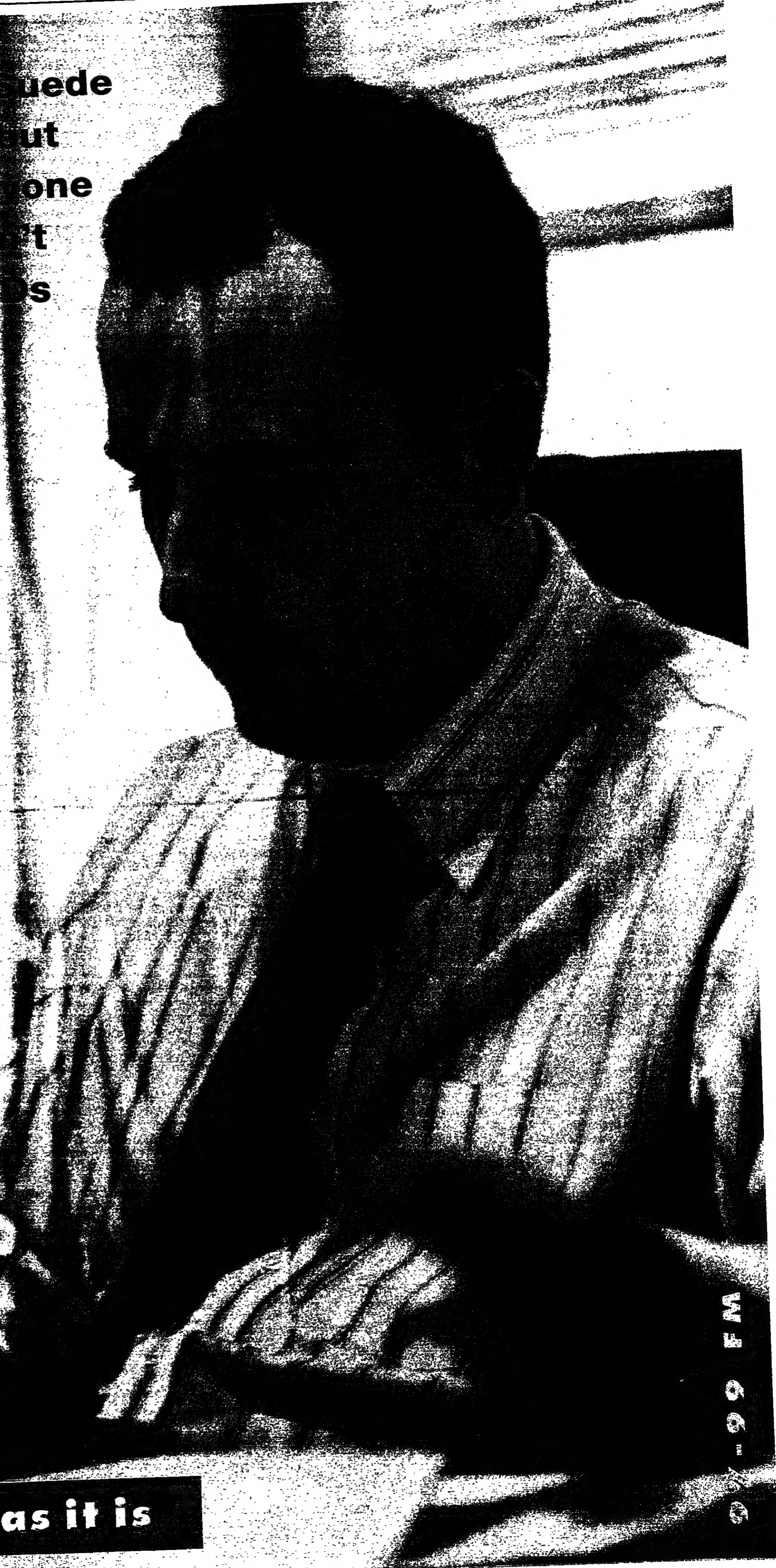
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School sports revival plan falls foul of cash shortage

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS drawn up by Iain Sproul, the Sports Minister, to revitalise team games in state schools have been heavily scaled down in Whitehall.

In a report to John Major a year ago, Mr Sproul said that all schools should offer five competitive games, stay open an extra 10 hours a week to make more time for sport, and pay teachers about £500 a year for taking on additional responsibilities.

But lengthy negotiations between Stephen Dorrell, the National Heritage Secretary and Mr Sproul's boss, and Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, have put paid to many of his proposals. Education department sources have indicated that in the light of the dispute over the underfunding of the teachers' pay award, there is no prospect of the Government finding more money to pay staff for coaching teams in their spare time. However, ministers are promising some form of "rewards and incentives".

A White Paper on school sport in early June will also make clear that the Government will not move beyond the present requirement that schools devote two hours a week to physical education. Nor will the emphasis be solely on team games.

The decisions undermine the main parts of Mr Sproul's proposals and will disappoint one of the main teaching unions, the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers,

which promised an enthusiastic response if teachers were paid for taking on extra work.

Instead, ministers will rely on the growing competition between schools for pupils to reverse the decline of the last decade, which has been blamed for the poor performance of the national cricket and football teams.

The White Paper will require schools to publish annual reports on their sporting achievements, facilities and qualifications of their staff. But sports scores will not be included with exam results in league table information on schools. Ministers believe that parents will take this extra information into account in choosing schools and that heads and governors will respond by appointing teachers who can offer more than purely academic skills and qualifications.

Mr Sproul wanted teachers to take the lead in regenerating team games in the belief that this was the best way of ensuring that all pupils were given a sporting education. But despite his warning that splitting coaching responsibilities with local clubs tends to benefit only a talented minority, the White Paper will make another attempt to involve clubs more fully.

Some of his proposals have survived. Money will be found for a new network of sports colleges, modelled on the technology colleges, and National Lottery funds will help to improve school sports facilities.



Six of the rebels yesterday, from left, Sir Teddy Taylor, Christopher Gill, John Wilkinson, Teresa Gorman, Nicholas Budgen and Richard Shepherd

Rebels remain scourge of the Tory leadership

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The return of the whipless Tory MPs to the marital home — with Michael (or is it now Sir Michael?) Spicer as the marriage guidance counsellor — is an exercise in cynicism and insincerity. Nothing has really changed over the five months of their well-publicised martyrdom. The MPs neither regret their original decision not to support the Government in a confidence vote over the European Budget Bill nor have they promised good behaviour, as they showed with their defiant, almost contemptuous, stance yesterday. Their marriage to the Tory party looks like remaining troubled.

Tony Blair made the most vivid comment with his taunt to John Major in the Commons — "I lead my party, he follows his". Mr Major responded robustly, but the saga has illustrated the tight constraints he faces over anything European. With a paper Commons majority now barely in double figures, a determined group can always defy the party leadership, provided they have the support of their

constituency parties, as all but one of the nine have had.

The decision to make the Budget Bill a confidence vote was based on the calculation, or rather miscalculation, that only two or three would vote against. Eight, plus Sir Richard Body, presented a different scale of problem. Apart from the VAT vote in December, the rebels have mainly been an irritant rather than a threat to the Government's majority, as was shown in the vote on Europe two months ago. There has been no evidence of the consistent support for the Government previously deemed necessary for a return of the whip. The rebels have seldom voted against the official line — indeed, Nicholas Budgen never has. Rather, they have not turned up for several important votes.

The point of the rebellion has largely disappeared. As David Howell, now in the "anti-federalist" mainstream over Europe, remarked last

night, the explanation for the continuation of the revolt has been "a fondness for media attention plus the achievement of a certain passing notoriety". He derided the rebels as "silly-billies". They are a curious band of the principled, the self-obsessed, and the weird and have anyway largely been pushed to the margin in recent weeks. That is why some Tory whips believed they should be left to stew, especially as there will be few big European votes in the coming months.

Mr Major decided otherwise, and it was very much his decision. The restoration of the whip fulfilled one demand of the Tory Right and could be presented as a conciliatory gesture ahead of the inevitable turbulence after next week's elections. I doubt if it will do Mr Major much good either in the short or the long term. Some of the former rebels are among his most long-standing critics and will sign on for any attempted coup after May 4. It does not matter what is said now.

What matters is the size of the losses and the mood in a fortnight. The anti-Major forces are keeping quiet now since they do not want to be accused of rocking the boat before these elections.

Moreover, the nine gave no sign yesterday that they will toe the line on future European votes. It is absurd to believe that Sir Teddy Taylor or Sir Richard Body, among others, will break the habits of more than 20 years and support European measures with which they profoundly disagree. Their views, tantamount to demanding withdrawal from any likely European Union, remain at the extreme end of the spectrum. More worrying for the frustrated band of Tory pro-Europeans is how the centre of gravity of the parliamentary party has moved in a septic direction, with the ambivalent support, or at least acquiescence, of the Cabinet. The rebels have played little part in this process. Their exile has elevated their importance, and their nuisance value.

PETER RIDDELL

ID cards campaign backed by Major

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Prime Minister gave his full support to the introduction of identity cards yesterday in spite of strong opposition from Euro-sceptic Tory MPs.

Ignoring right-wing claims that ID cards could hasten abolition of the European Union's internal frontiers, John Major told the Commons at Question Time: "I believe there are significant advantages identity cards may offer to prevent crime and fraud."

Next month Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will publish a Green Paper setting out various options and their costs. The main proposals are likely to include voluntary use for everyone and compulsory use for social security claimants to combat fraud. Uniform photocards for motorists will also be an option.

Eight of the nine former whipless MPs warned the Government last week that it would then have to insist on an amendment to the Treaty of Rome to protect Britain's legal right to maintain border controls. The Conservative Way Forward group of right-wing Tories is also opposed to ID cards on libertarian grounds.

Jeremy Hanley, the Tory Party chairman, said that MPs were wrong to link ID cards with border controls. "The Prime Minister has made it absolutely clear that our position on frontier controls is extremely strong."

There are also divisions in the Cabinet over whether the scheme should be compulsory, with key figures such as Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Clarke expressing doubts. A compulsory scheme could cost £500-£600 million to set up. Mr Major has not said which option he favours.

Blue-collar workers wary of Blair's new Labour

By IAN MURRAY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is providing the Tories with their best chance of retaining power in Solihull, once one of their safest strongholds in the industrial West Midlands.

The loss of two seats at the May 4 election will cost them control of the council. If they manage to keep them all it will largely be due to suspicion about "new Labour" among a skilled blue-collar workforce that has historically voted Tory.

Today, many of these workers are disenchanted with the Government, but they are wary of champagne socialism and scornful of the Liberal Democrats. "I always voted for Thatcher but I don't think I'll bother to turn out this time," said Mike Lea, a foreman at the huge Land-Rover plant that gives the town much of its work and wealth. "The Tories have let us down and Blair sounds no different to me. I've got no idea what Clause Four has to do with the real world we live in."

Ken Meeson, the Tory group leader, who rules thanks to an uncomfortable alliance with the independent ratepayers, fervently wishes that he could cut the town off from news of events at Westminster. He wants no help during the campaign from visiting national politicians.

"If you talk about local issues on the doorstep people are extremely happy with our



administration," he said. "I think the intervention of national politicians is at best unfortunate. It takes the focus away from what local government is about."

Under Tory rule, Solihull has campaigned against grant-maintained schools and has continued to build council houses. "We have not felt bound by Central Office diktat and we run a very efficient administration," Mr Meeson said.

He points proudly to recent Audit Commission league tables showing that Solihull provides the full range of services at lower cost than any other metropolitan authority. He is bitter at the way the government revenue grant to the borough was cut by £1 million this year forcing the council to put up its tax by 9.5 per cent while drawing £3 mil-

lions from the central government.

He is also angry that the new local hospital, built for £38 million after years of campaigning, applied for trust status last July and showed such a serious financial shortfall that it is now being merged with a Birmingham trust hospital. "These are things beyond our control and yet we are being blamed for them. If we could campaign on our record we would win easily and if we lose, it is because we are taking the can for central government."

The Labour leader, Mick Corser, agrees. He clearly finds it difficult to say how Labour would run things very differently if they were to win the 11 seats they need to gain control. "We would divide the budget cake a bit differently, spending more on education and social services," he said. Deep down he does not believe that Labour can win control on its own and his best hope is to form a ruling coalition with the Liberal Democrats.

The Liberal Democrats, however, have their eyes on a grander coalition, sharing power with both the other parties. John Reeves, a Liberal Democrat councillor, said: "We would never get into bed with Labour on its own. No party has all the best people, but if we could mix our talents Solihull would get the best local government anywhere."

Forces medical cuts condemned by MPs

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S defence forces lack the medical support they would need to treat the casualties of an armed conflict, MPs said in a report yesterday.

The Commons Defence Select Committee condemned money-saving cuts in defence medical staff and accused officials of hiding from MPs the scale of the reduction. The said that the loss of 700 beds and 3,780 staff was jeopardising Britain's ability to cope even with hostilities short of all-out war.

The MPs voiced particular concern at the drop in the number of surgical teams in Regular Army Field Hospitals from 43 to 24. They said British troops' peace-keeping role in Bosnia had underlined the need to maintain medical support services.

"We fear that the major reduction in the Defence Medical Services will reduce the ability of the UK to generate

military medical support for the frontline in the event of serious hostilities," the MPs said. "We are not confident that the proposed medical establishment allows properly for medical casualties in time of war."

The committee added to its past criticisms of secrecy by defence officials. "We are concerned at the scale of the reductions in the defence medical services, whether deliberately or inadvertently — from public and parliamentary scrutiny."

Five of the seven service hospitals that were open in the early 1990s are being closed. The committee called on the Government to be "as helpful as possible" in talks with the local NHS Trust on ways of leasing and thereby saving the RAF hospital at Wroughton, Wiltshire, because of local needs.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to education ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by a debate on the Medical (Professional Performance) Bill, second reading, opened by Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, in the Lords: debate on the Jobseekers Bill.

TODAY in the Commons: from 10am, backbench debates on responsibility to children, the future of rugby league, state and private education, Scottish non-domestic rates and the National Health Service in east London. From 2.30pm, questions to Scottish ministers followed by a debate, the Criminal Appeal Bill, in the Lords: debates on local government, the football industry and the Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Bill.

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السنة الأولى

Veterans of two world conflicts converge on key staging posts along the road to peace

Old soldiers embrace at East-West rendezvous

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND
MICHAEL BRYNEN IN MOSCOW

TWO veterans, an American and a Russian, yesterday embraced on the banks of the Elbe to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the link-up of the Eastern and Western fronts, which spelt the inevitable end of the Third Reich.

The meeting in Torgau in Saxony between Lieutenant William Robertson — who yesterday wore an unimpeachable-looking baseball cap — and Lieutenant Aleksandr Silvaschko, formerly of the Red Army, was supposed to symbolise the co-operation of Russians and Americans in defeating Hitler. An American jazz band and a crowd of veterans from both countries tried to give the historic moment on April 25, 1945 a contemporary gloss.

Lieutenant Robertson seemed convinced that the East-West tension which followed the war was little more than a 50-year hiccup. "The Cold War was a government affair. I don't believe that it would have happened if it had been left to the people."

Yet even when the two lieutenants first met on the Torgau bridge, there were serious considerations in both the East and West about the nature of the next conflict. In particular, relations between Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin were turning sour. And yesterday's encounter at the bridge — blown up last year as a safety hazard — was far from straightforward.

For one thing, the first meeting of Russians and Americans had actually occurred by chance some hours earlier, about 18 miles south of Torgau. The American top brass did not approve of an unheeded meeting with the Russians, and so the more carefully-organised encounter at Torgau was chosen as the historically correct rendezvous.

The embrace, hesitant at first, became more confident as it was staged again and again for photographers throughout the day. Lieutenant Silvaschko, meanwhile, was probably saved by his

presence on the photograph. Two other members of his patrol were denied and punished for their relatively spontaneous action. The Soviet high command plainly believed that historic moments should be the preserve of generals and not lieutenants or sergeants.

In Moscow yesterday, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, dedicated a vast hall within Russia's gigantic new memorial to the Second World War, where the names of more than 12,000 war dead are written in bronze letters on marble plaques lining the walls of the rotunda.

Mr Chernomyrdin and Yuri Lazhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, spoke of the enormous sacrifices that saved Russia from annihilation by the Nazis, and voiced the nation's gratitude to ordinary soldiers who have until now received no individual recognition.

After more than 15 years of vacillation and delay, Russia's most grandiose memorial to its 20 million wartime dead is being completed in a whirlwind of activity beside the triumphal Borodino arch on the outskirts of the city.

The memorial has provoked a bitter controversy in a country that was sickened by the communists' hijacking of every patriotic sentiment, and has been repeatedly criticised for its gigantism, vulgarity, cost and political dogmatism.

The original design had to be altered radically after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The proposed statue of Lenin leading the victorious masses was dropped; a Russian Orthodox chapel, complete with golden cupola, vast prefabricated bronze icons of Christ and colourful mosaics, was added to the site. A steel skeleton, 141.9m high, high to symbolise the 1418 days of war, was hastily chosen to fill the gap in front of the semicircular traditional marble memorial.

As usual in Russia the project, costing £100 million at 1984 prices, is well behind schedule.



Australian soldiers, dressed in traditional uniforms and carrying bayonets, stand yesterday in front of the monument at Gallipoli to troops killed during the invasion of the Turkish peninsula 80 years ago. Thousands of veterans in Australia also took part in the most revered day in the country's military calendar (Roger Maynard writes).

Only 15 Australians who fought in the Gallipoli campaign, in which 3,709

Gallipoli remembered

Australians and 2,701 New Zealanders were killed, are alive. Although most of them are about 100 years old, several attended Anzac Day dawn parades in Australia. The same cannot be said for the official party, which was due to arrive before first light on the shores of Anzac Cove in Turkey

yesterday morning. Thousands of Australians and New Zealanders travelled halfway around the world to attend the dawn service, and were clearly disappointed when the top brass, including Bill Hayden, Australia's Governor-General, failed to appear on time. Some wondered

whether they had gone to the wrong cove, recalling the British bungle that saw allied troops land at Anzac Cove, instead of safer points nearby. Spectators had to wait for nearly 45 minutes before the official party turned up.

A lone New Zealand bagpiper played a lament for those who died. "It's so sad and emotional," Mena Telford, 76, said. Her father, an Australian sergeant, was wounded on the first day of the Anzac landing.

Tribute to PoWs of 'death railway'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN KANCHANABURI, THAILAND

ABOUT 800 people gathered yesterday to honour Australian and New Zealand prisoners of war who died building the Second World War's infamous "death railway".

War veterans, their families and schoolchildren were among those attending the annual Anzac Day ceremony at the River Kwai in Kanchanaburi Province, 68 miles west of Bangkok. Diplomatic representatives were also present.

More than 16,000 Allied prisoners of the Japanese — including 2,800 Australians — and 100,000 Asian forced labourers died constructing the 257-mile railway, linking Bangkok and Rangoon.

A Japanese television crew attended to shoot footage for a documentary telling Japanese youth the truth about their country's actions.



Aleksandr Silvaschko, left, and William Robertson re-enact their meeting at the Elbe 50 years ago

VE DAY MESSAGES

The Times will be running a series of special editorials each day between the 1st May and 8th May 1995 to mark the end of the War in Europe fifty years ago. Our readers who wish to take this opportunity to contact old friends or comrades or simply convey a personal message may do so free of charge in no more than 16 words by returning the attached coupon. Space availability is limited so messages will be published on a first come first served basis on the 8th May.

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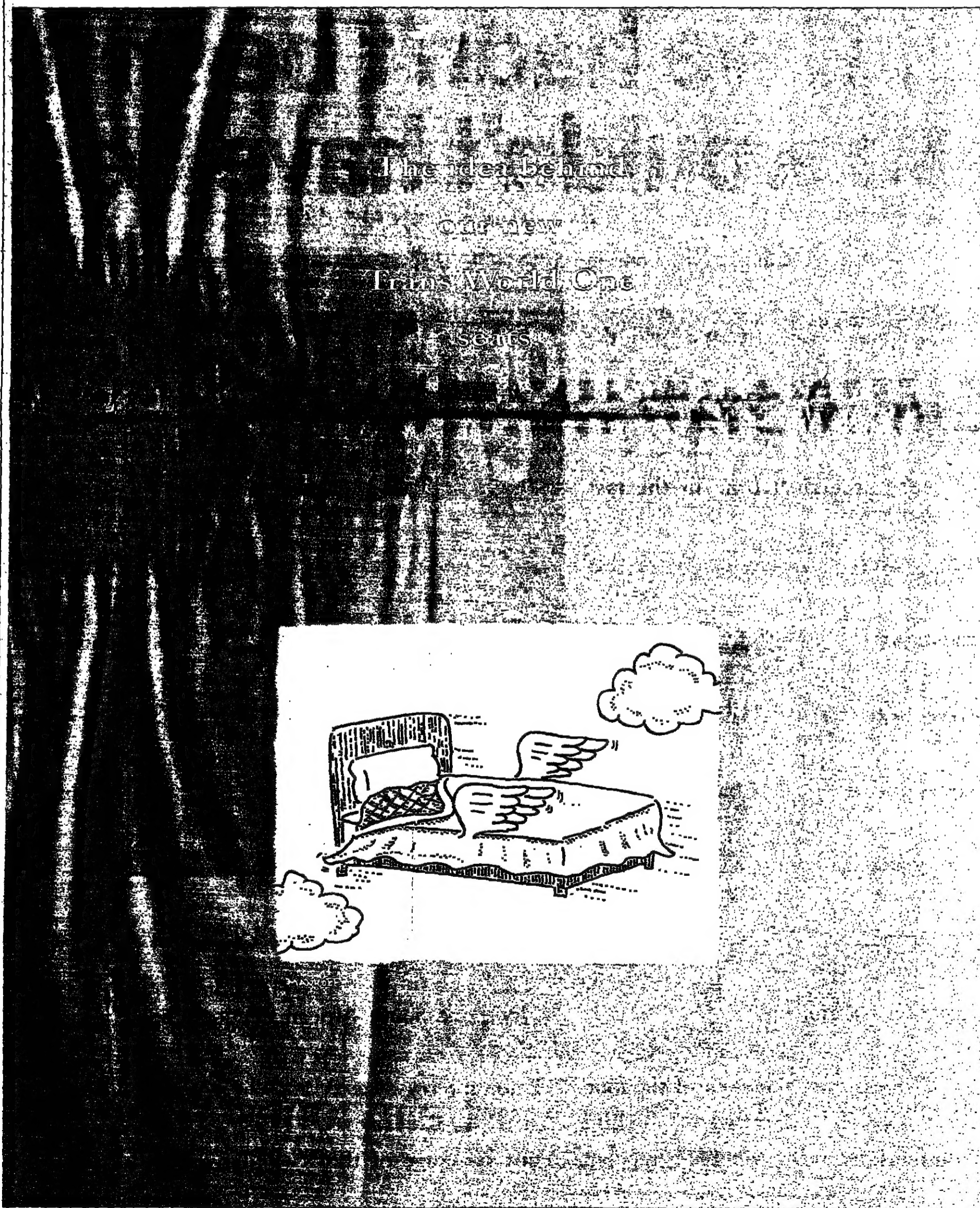
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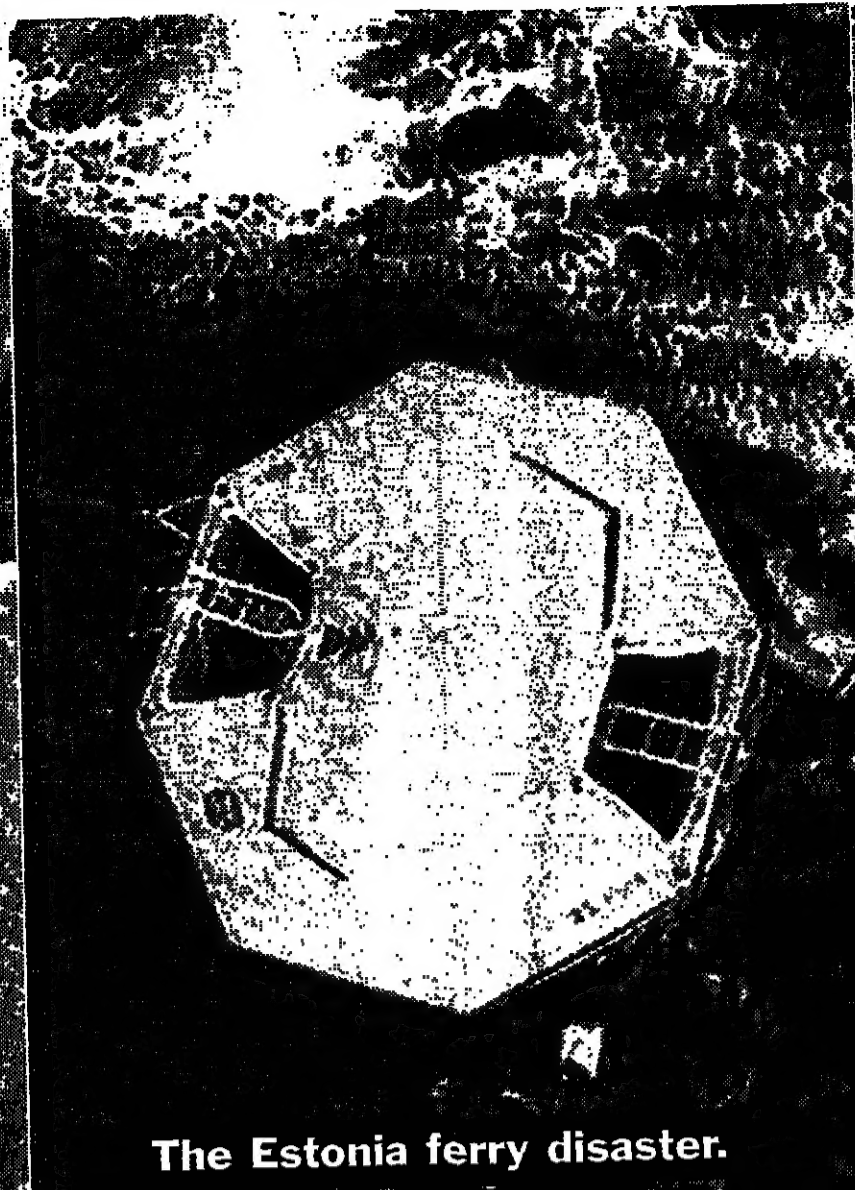
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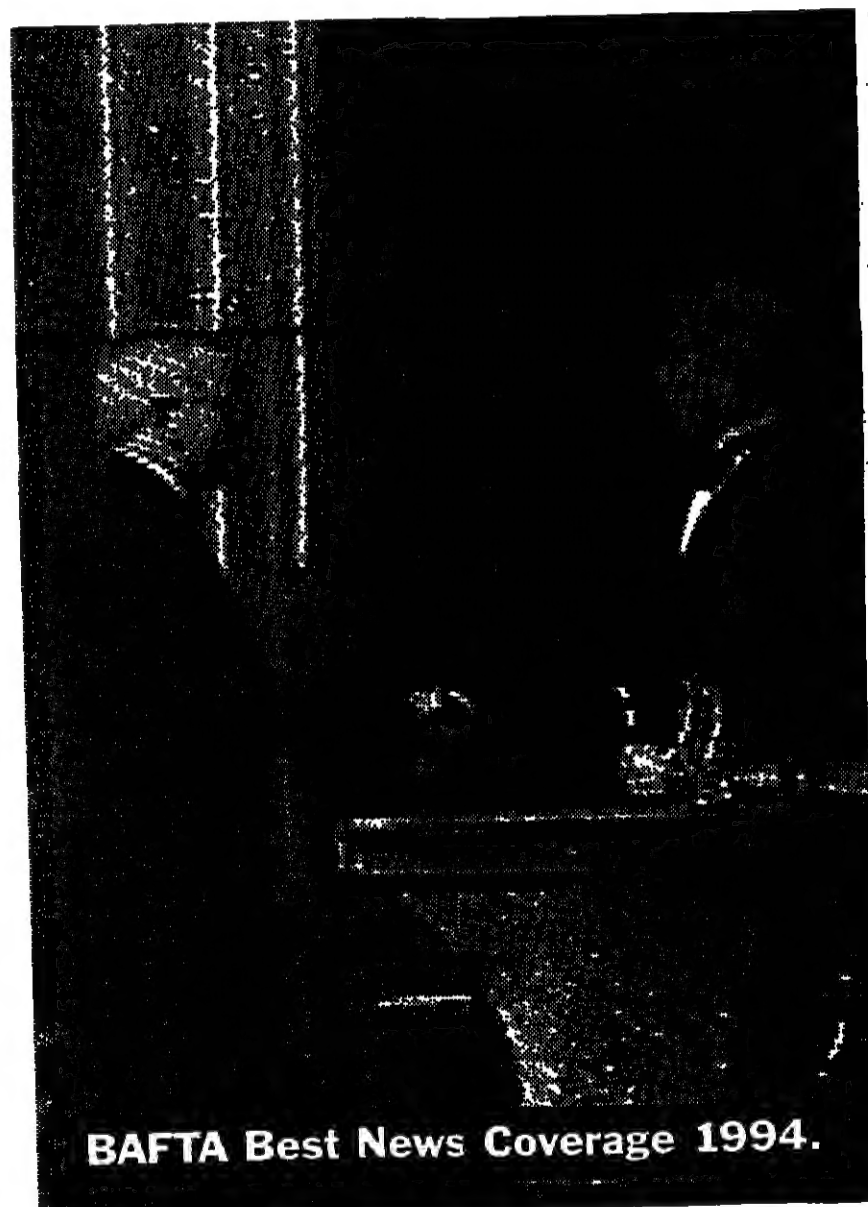
It's the eighth time in the last nine years that ITN has won this prestigious award, but we wouldn't have been there if ITN reporters, crews and technicians hadn't been on the ground, where the news was happening, with in-depth coverage of last year's major stories.

No less than three out of the four nominations were for ITN reports,

either for News at Ten or Channel 4 News: the South African election, the Estonia ferry disaster and the winner, our coverage of the Rwandan crisis.

We'd like to congratulate all those involved who brought these stories to us. Very often they had to work under the most distressing and difficult circumstances, and in the case of the Rwandan reports, were sometimes in the front line of the fighting.

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Baghdad rejects oil-for-food plan proposed by UN

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IRAQ'S National Assembly formally rejected a United Nations plan yesterday that would have allowed the country to sell billions of dollars worth of oil on world markets to raise money for food and humanitarian supplies.

The decision of the 225 legislators in the rubber-stamp assembly had been expected ever since Iraqi leaders reacted coolly to the UN Security Council resolution spelling out the scheme on April 14. Baghdad's hard line came as a blow to British and American officials who had worked hard with their Russian and French counterparts to draw up a compromise.

With deliberate timing, Iraq also announced new opportunities in its oil industry for Russia and Iraqis, which have both advocated the easing of sanctions. Russia has been given the opportunity to

develop two giant oilfields in the south and talks are at an advanced stage with French companies on developing other major oilfields.

The oil-for-food scheme permits Iraq to sell \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) worth of oil over an initial six-month period despite the UN oil embargo imposed on the country more than four years ago after its invasion of Kuwait.

The bulk of the proceeds would go to buy badly needed food and humanitarian supplies. About \$600 million would, however, be set aside to pay compensation to victims of the Gulf War and a further \$100 million would pay for UN weapons inspectors in Iraq. Up to \$300 million more could be doled out to provide aid to the Kurds in northern Iraq under an economic blockade by Baghdad.

The terms set by the Security Council for the Iraqi oil sale were considerably less stringent than those required by a similar scheme adopted in 1991. Britain and the United States had hoped Baghdad would accept the oil-for-food proposal to relieve the suffering of its people and defuse growing criticism in the Middle East of the continued oil embargo. Iraq, which has the potential to become a dominant oil producer in the 21st century, evidently feared, however, that the restrictions would set the pattern for all of its future oil sales.

With no influx of new food supplies in prospect because of the rejection of the UN scheme, President Saddam Hussein moved this week to tighten government control over harvests. Iraqi ruling Revolutionary Command Council decreed that "the marketing of wheat, barley, rice, maize and sunflower seeds shall be confined to the state at prices determined by it".

Weapons fear: Ineffective controls on the export of sensitive technologies could lead to the widespread proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, it was claimed yesterday (Michael Dwyer writes).

Controls on the export of key technologies are so inadequate that Western arms exporters face a reputation of the Matrix-Churchill affair, in which Britain helped to rearm Iraq, according to a former London-based think-tank.

Turkey cuts force in Iraq by 20,000

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

TURKEY, yielding to pressure from its Western allies, announced yesterday that it had withdrawn 20,000 more troops from northern Iraq, where it has bruised but not crushed the Kurdish separatist rebels. It had vowed to annihilate.

Military officials gave no deadline for the withdrawal of about 12,000 troops left behind to maintain attacks on Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) rebels, who have exploited the power vacuum in northern Iraq to establish bases for cross-border raids into Turkey. "The operations of our units aimed at getting rid of the presence and effect of the terrorists in the region near our border in northern Iraq are continuing," Colonel Dogu Silioglu, a Turkish military spokesman, said.

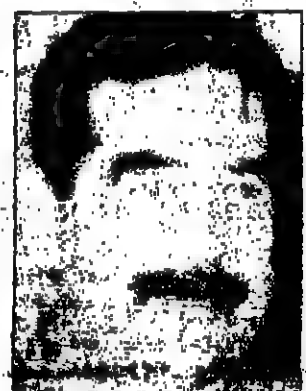
The withdrawal of the 20,000-strong invasion force that swept into northern Iraq on March 20, came days

after Tazuo Ciller, the Turkish Prime Minister, returned from talks in Washington with President Clinton, who urged an immediate pullout. Washington's European allies, in particular France and Germany, had issued a warning that Turkey was endangering Ankara's recent customs deal with the European Union.

Germany and The Netherlands suspended military aid to Turkey after voicing fears that civilians would be caught in the crossfire.

The Turkish military, which had said there were 2,500 PKK rebels in northern Iraq, claimed it had killed 505 "terrorists" in the six-week operation. Although not a complete success, diplomats said the offensive had managed to drive rebels from Turkey's southern border. Turkey also reported the seizure of weapons from PKK camps smashed.

Saddam wants tighter control over harvests



Saddam wants tighter control over harvests

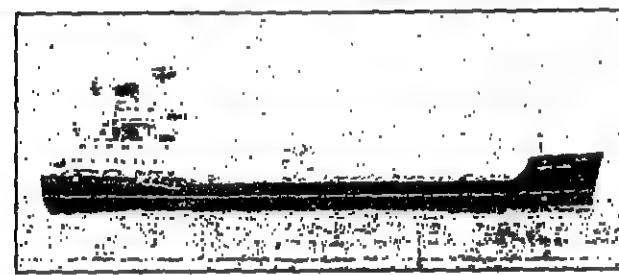
Japan protests greet nuclear waste ship



Anti-nuclear demonstrators protest against the arrival in Japan of radioactive waste carried by the British-registered freighter *Pacific Pioneer* right, yesterday. At first Hiroshi Kimura, the provincial Governor, refused to allow the ship to dock at the northern port of Mutsu Ogawara. He changed his

mind, however, after receiving a written statement from the Government in Tokyo, promising that it would not try to bury the waste permanently in his prefecture. The ship was due to put in early today at the end of its two-month voyage.

The episode has highlighted the controversy over the country's nuclear programme. The freighter was carrying 14 tonnes of reprocessed Japanese radioactive waste from France. It is to be stored for 30 to 50 years near Mutsu Ogawara, before it is buried elsewhere. Tokyo plans to ship 7,100 tonnes of spent fuel to France and Britain for reprocessing. (Reuters)



Hamas suspect dies during Israeli detention

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A SUSPECTED member of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, died in a Jerusalem hospital yesterday, the first death in detention since the Israeli Government relaxed interrogation rules for Shin Bet, the secret police.

Israel radio announced that the Justice Ministry had ordered an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Abed al-Samed Harizat, 30, a computer engineer from the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, who was picked up from his home just after midnight on Saturday. The relaxation of the rules covering interro-

gations was sanctioned after the suicide bombing in the heart of Tel Aviv last October which claimed 22 victims. It was extended in January after Islamic suicide bombers killed 21 more Jews near the resort of Netanya.

The case has provoked fierce debate about the methods used to stem the wave of Islamic terror. PLO police have also been accused by human rights groups of severely mistreating Palestinian prisoners, two of whom died in custody.

The dead man's older brother, Abdulhadi, claimed he had died from wounds to the left shoulder and neck. "We have no doubt that he was killed by the interrogation," he claimed.

News of the death prompted a protest strike in Hebron. Hamas quickly threatened revenge.

Israeli security sources claim the dead man was a senior member of the military wing of Hamas and linked to three Islamic extremists shot dead by Israeli soldiers in Hebron last week.

Dalia Kirstein, director of HaMoked, the Israeli centre of the defence of the individual, said: "The circumstances surrounding this death are very fishy. We think it is a severe lesson to Israeli society not to give a completely free hand to the intelligence services." Ms Kirstein said that if a post mortem was held, the family would request that it be conducted by a

foreign doctor. She said the dead man's family was being represented by a Jewish lawyer and that a hearing would be held today to decide the next stage in the case.

Under the new guidelines Shin Bet was authorised to use force beyond the "moderate physical pressure" permitted them by the Landau commission report issued in 1987. Israeli human rights groups claimed at that time that even those guidelines had in effect sanctioned torture.

□ Tyre: Nine Israeli soldiers were wounded in a bomb attack in Bint Jbeil in Israel's self-proclaimed "buffer zone" in south Lebanon yesterday. (Reuters)

Nato would use force to accomplish Bosnia withdrawal

Plans drawn up for UN pullout

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN MÜNCHENGLADBACH

NATO commanders are expected to adopt a tough, aggressive stance against obstructive warring factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina if the alliance is called upon by the United Nations to evacuate the 24,000 UN troops from the civil war.

A detailed contingency plan that would involve about 40,000 alliance troops from Nato's new rapid reaction corps, which is close to being fully operational, envisages negotiation first, followed by decisive military action in the event of violent confrontation with local forces.

Although there is no political decision on the precise make-up of a Nato withdrawal force, a list of military requirements has been drawn up by the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

The list includes attack helicopters and it is assumed that they will be the American

Apaches, combat-proven from the Gulf War. Washington is also expected to offer ground troops, although Nato commanders cannot yet count on American involvement.

Planning for a withdrawal of UN troops, who are commanded by Lieutenant-General Robert Smith, from Bosnia remains sensitive, particularly



Smith: withdrawal of troops problematic

since the ceasefire between the warring factions is due to end in five days. However, the readiness of the ARRC to carry out its first mission since its formation after the end of the Cold War was underlined yesterday by its British commander, Lieutenant-General Mike Walker. He said: "I'm confident we can deploy and successfully complete a mission in any theatre of operations."

The ARRC, which is based on four multinational divisions and support units totalling about 100,000 soldiers, is primed to be ready for deployment within 7-15 days. Under present planning, it could take four to six weeks to get 40,000 Nato troops into Bosnia although there are contingencies for taking more rapid emergency measures.

Yesterday, the British Government's fears for the safety of the 400 British soldiers in

Gorazde in eastern Bosnia was highlighted when it emerged that the Royal Welch Fusiliers in the Muslim enclave will not be replaced.

Nato sources said: "If we're ordered to Bosnia we will not be going in as peacekeepers but to get the UN troops out. Any major military challenge would be decisively dealt with."

ARRC headquarters staff are involved in an exercise codenamed Arrcade Guard, rehearsing all the procedures for deploying forces to Bosnia. Although the ARRC, which includes two British divisions, is fully prepared, none of the Nato commanders underestimates the difficulties.

□ Sarajevo: Two British UN military observers and their interpreter were apprehended by three Serb soldiers in the Sarajevo area yesterday and forced out of their Jeep, a UN spokesman said. (AFP)

Russia condemns war crimes move

BY MISHA GLENNY

THE potential threat to Bosnia peace initiatives posed by the United Nations decision to name Serb leaders as war criminals became real yesterday when Russia voiced objections.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, based in The Hague, is investigating Radovan Ka-

radzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, General Ratko Mladic, the army commander, and Mico Stankovic, the former secret police chief.

A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday: "Such a step will harm efforts to achieve a peace settlement in the Balkans." The official told Interfax news agency it was more productive to search for a political deal than

to "stir the past". Since the Bosnian Serbs rejected the Contact Group peace plan last summer, attempts by international mediators to persuade them to resume talks have ground to a halt. Instead, the international community succeeded in persuading President Milosevic of Serbia to cut his links with Mr Karadzic and the Bosnian Serb leadership by imposing a blockade between the rump Yugoslavia and Bosnian Serb-controlled territories.

Now there are no levers left to use on the Bosnian Serbs. The effect of the war crimes tribunal announcement will be to persuade Mr Karadzic and General Mladic to dig their heels in still further.

But there is a further element to the investigation which suggests that the tribunal and some members of the five-nation Contact Group are slipping into a political mire. Along with the investigation of Mr Karadzic and General Mladic, the tribunal has also said it will be pursuing some Bosnian Croats suspected of

involvement in massacres of Muslims which took place in the Lasva valley of central Bosnia in the spring of 1993.

The tribunal's statement fails to name these suspects. A spokesman for the Bosnian Serbs asked why their leaders had been named but not the Bosnian Croats.

According to one well-placed UN official, the most senior Bosnian Croat under investigation is Dario Kordic. The problem is that Mr Kordic is the leading figure in the Republic of Hercegovina, the Croat mini-state which has agreed to a theoretical federation with the Bosnian Government.

This shaky alliance between Muslims and Croats has become the centrepiece of American policy in Bosnia-Herzegovina. If Mr Kordic was named it could jeopardise attempts to consolidate the federation.

An impasse has been reached. The tribunal, however well-intentioned, can do nothing to stop the fighting. It may, however, encourage it.

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Tutsi troops cut off food for Hutus left in camp

FROM SAM KILEY IN KIGALI

TUTSI soldiers cut off food and water yesterday to the last Hutus besieged in Kibeho camp in southwest Rwanda where thousands were slaughtered at the weekend.

The siege will continue even if it means going on for six months, an officer of the Rwandan Patriotic Army said outside an old hospital compound where the Hutus were holed up. They are the remnants of Kibeho's population, until last week 100,000-strong.

The United Nations has slapped a gagging order on Australian and Zambian peacekeeping soldiers who witnessed the massacre of thousands of Hutus in Kibeho. The UN's civilian leadership reduced its official estimate from more than 8,000 to about 2,000.

The sudden drop in the figures has sparked a bitter row within the UN. UN military sources, aid workers and diplomats accused the UN yesterday of a "cover up". Australian soldiers and medical staff who conducted a body count said they logged 4,050 dead before abandoning the operation to help the wounded. This figure was accepted by the UN's civilian

leadership under Shahyar Khan, who issued it in an official report the day after the massacre. But after meeting the Rwandan Government, which has insisted that no more than 300 people were killed, the UN dropped its figure to "around 2,000 and possibly less".

Mr Khan said yesterday that this figure came after a separate and scientific body count was conducted by the UN's chief military officer. "We are not deceiving anyone," he said.

Oxfam and Médecins Sans Frontières, who worked in Kibeho, have complained that the UN has suppressed the scale of the killings. "Something very fishy is going on," said Robert Maletta of Oxfam. However, Major Mark Cuthbert-Brown, a British military policeman acting as the UN's Provost-Marshal who was in Kibeho from Saturday afternoon, backed up the UN's final estimate of 2,000.

"I saw a Rwandan soldier pull the pin on a grenade and roll it behind a woman with her child. It blew them to pieces. I saw a man shot while sitting down," he said.



Scores of bodies are laid out in Kibeho camp in preparation for burial. The number killed by the Tutsi army is disputed by Rwandan government officials and aid workers

Rwanda refugees fear attack from all sides

FROM CATHERINE BOND IN KIBeho, SOUTHWEST RWANDA

THE enclosed courtyard in which the last of the Hutu refugees are holding out in the heart of Kibeho camp is a vision of hell: children sit amid fresh corpses that look like sacks of grain, half hidden by plastic sheeting. Fear of the Tutsi government soldiers outside and brutal intimidation by refugees inside prevents them from leaving.

Tutsi sat watching Australian United Nations troops enter the courtyard and take up positions against a sniper, allegedly hiding on a balcony. "Inside," said one young soldier, "there are soldiers of the old regime and civilians. We are now trying to convince them to come out."

The inner circle of the Rwandan Government sanctioned the closure of this camp last week when its Tutsi-led army launched a military operation, cordoning off the camp with soldiers. According to the commander in charge of the area, Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Nyamvumba, three-quarters of the refugees in grass huts on the hillside went home, but about 20,000 refused, taking sanctuary in a half-burnt church and school buildings below.

Last Saturday, Australian troops say they calculated 4,050 dead, after Government soldiers had opened fire on refugees streaming downhill from the church and school. A sea of belongings several feet high choked a deserted marketplace. Hundreds of people suffocated in the stupor

when the army mistook the moment refugees ran to take cover from a shower of rain, as an attempt to break out of their corral. "They were tired," said Captain Shema, of the Rwandan Patriotic Army, trying to explain away the reason why all the belongings were dropped in one place.

Others left a trail of possessions as they fled, pursued by soldiers who were seen bayonetting men, women, children to death. Bodies littered the camp, but according to UN troops, they were cleared up by the army, buried in mass graves and thrown into pit latrines, before President Bizimungu and other Hutu officials from the Ministry of Justice and Interior visited the camp on Monday.

Some aid workers do not think that when the army cordoned off the camp and began to screen refugees for people suspected of taking part in last year's genocide, that it intended its military operation to end this way.

"It was not revenge killing," said one aid official who has spent several years in Rwanda. "I don't think they planned a massacre. They're not that stupid. In the heat of the moment the army lost control of its men. They started doing outrageous things: shooting people who were trying to surrender, firing rocket propelled grenades into women and children." Pools of blood lay in rows and soaked piles of clothes. Several people who appeared to have died from bullet

wounds were sprawled on a staircase leading to the balcony where the sniper was supposed to be. One man had just died inside a classroom packed with 50 women and children. Next door, about 30 people bore hideous wounds from the previous few days.

The Australians evacuated the wounded to a Red Cross lorry but one man, thought to be too badly injured, with a head wound to make a recovery, lay on the road for hours in the sun before dying.

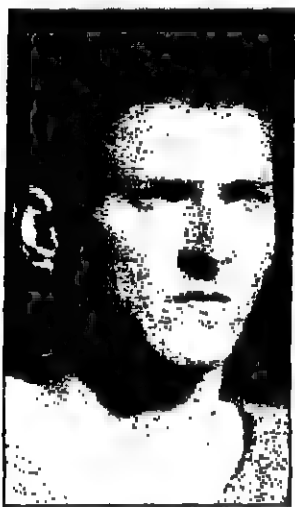
Now UN troops are using gentle force to remove the last of the refugees before the army carries out a threat to attack the school. "I don't think I will serve any purpose," said a Zambian soldier as he tried to persuade a woman and her children to leave. Her husband, the main agitator in the camp, refused to let her go. "I come from here," he said. "Why should I walk all the way to Butare to go home? We want to be taken to another place of refuge."

But UN troops continued to escort refugees past piles of clothes, sacks of grain, excrement and corpses. They were taken to a road where they sat down to wait for transport to a football stadium in Butare, where radical Tutsis from an impromptu intelligence service screened out those refugees they wanted jailed.

The church around which the refugees sheltered was the scene of a massacre of thousands of Tutsis a year ago. Now it is the turn of Hutus to seek refuge in prayer.

Oklahoma suspect 'sees himself on military mission'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND TOM RHODES IN OKLAHOMA CITY



McVeigh: no reaction to pictures of victims

THE final death toll from the Oklahoma City bombing could exceed 200, the House said yesterday as the prime suspect for a atrocity adamantly refused to co-operate with investigators. Timothy McVeigh showed no reaction even when confronted with pictures of children killed or mutilated by the blast.

Officials reported that Mr McVeigh, who has been held in solitary confinement in a top-security Oklahoma prison, was responding to all questions with an inscrutable silence. "He is like a cold fish: calm and collected," said one. His interrogators "say he is the scariest man

they have ever seen. He sees himself as a soldier." The Pentagon released Mr McVeigh's military records, showing that he was trained as a gunner for a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, won a Bronze Star for his Gulf War service, and for a while served in the same unit as another suspect, Terry Nichols.

Nichols's brother, James, was appearing in court in Michigan yesterday on unrelated gun and explosives charges. Terry Nichols is due to appear in a Kansas court today on similar charges. Both men have links to extreme right-wing paramilitary groups and investigators want to hold them in custody as they search

for evidence that could link them to the bomb plot. Investigators have found letters in Mr McVeigh's car vowing to avenge the deadly federal assault on the Branch Davidians' Waco compound in 1993. They have also raided the Florida home of his 21-year-old sister, Jennifer, in search of further evidence.

The Senate has unanimously approved a resolution condemning the bombing, demanding the death penalty for those responsible, and promised quick anti-terrorist legislation.

Rescue workers in Oklahoma City were yesterday nearing the Pit, the chillingly-named basement area of the federal building where they

expect most victims to be found. Funerals continued six days after the explosion, as the search of death started to wait across the city.

With each new victim came another story of a life extinguished. Chase Smith, a three-year-old, had been looking forward to his regular dancing lesson when his mother dropped him at the nursery that morning. His brother, Colton, two, died with him. "They were inseparable," said the boys' mother, Ede. "Now, I suppose, they will be together in heaven."

Donald Fritzer, 64, and his wife Mary, 57, died together on their 36th wedding anniversary. Alan Whitcher,

40, a Secret Service agent, telephoned his wife two minutes before the explosion and wished her luck on a speech she was giving to the local bible group. "I was only halfway up the stairs to get the speech when I felt the blast," said Pam Whitcher. "I don't know why, but I knew something awful had happened to him."

In Sacramento, California, yesterday, a letter bomb exploded, killing Gilbert Murray, 47, a timber industry lobbyist. Police said they believed it was the work of "Unabomber", a serial bomber who has killed three people and injured 23 in at least 15 incidents since 1978. Most targets have been university academics.

Chat show hosts hit back at Clinton

BY TOM RHODES

AMERICA'S conservative talk show hosts, denounced by President Clinton as purveyors of hatred, went on the offensive yesterday, accusing liberals of using the Oklahoma City bombing to stir up racism.

"The day after Mr Clinton had called on the American people to speak out against racism, speech and behaviour on the nation's airwaves switched around throughout the United States were jammed by angry callers agreeing with the President.

Universal revision over the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil, combined with a realisation that the bomb was planted by forces within, has brought the question of blame to the fore even before all the bodies have been pulled from the rubble.

Talk-show hosts, known as the "syndicators" of the airwaves, and considered by many Democrats to be the most powerful vehicle of support for the angry white male and the anti-federalist ideology of the new Republicans, said it was irresponsible to suggest there were any links between last week's explosion in Oklahoma City and public attacks on the Government.

Rush Limbaugh, whose show is broadcast on 660 stations, said that liberals were trying to ignite a "national hysteria" against the conservative movement and attempting to restrict freedom of speech.

"Make no mistake about it. Liberals intend to use this tragedy for political gain," he said. "There is absolutely no connection between the nuts who did this and mainstream conservatism in America."

In a personal attack on Mr Clinton, Gene Burns of KGO-AM in San Francisco and president of the National Association of Radio Talk Show Hosts, said his membership followed a strict code of personal responsibility.

Nevertheless, the President's words appeared to have struck a chord. Mr Limbaugh was accused by one caller of inciting the terrorist act. "Rush, you're their poster boy. You give them credence to go out and do what they do."

Fight over arms ban may shoot Republicans in foot

BY MARTIN FLETCHER



Dole: badly needs votes of gun lobby

The Oklahoma City bombing has set the stage for a high-stakes battle in Congress next month over Republican plans to repeal last year's assault weapons ban.

Democrats and the gun control lobby have lost no time declaring that a repeal would be madness, given that the bombers belonged to extremist paramilitary groups determined to stockpile such deadly weapons in order to resist the federal government.

For the Republicans the issue is not so simple. Though the ban enjoys wide public support, most of the party's grassroots activists passionately oppose it.

Robert Dole, the Senate leader, finds himself in a particularly uncomfortable position. He needs the support of the National Rifle Association's 3.5 million members to win the Republican presidential nomination, and recently promised the group he would fight for the repeal of the ban.

Compounding Mr Dole's predicament, the association ran newspaper advertisements just before last week's bombing directly parroting the militia's claim that the Government was preparing forcefully to disarm its citizens in order to repress them.

Beneath a picture of two menacing, heavily-armed agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the advertisements accused the bureau of "stormtrooper tactics" and claimed its mis-

sion was "to make gun ownership... a suspicious act, and gun owners by class suspected criminals".

Mr Dole and Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, have both indicated a determination to proceed with the repeal effort, arguing that it was a bomb not assault weapons that caused last week's tragedy, but the risk is considerable in the present climate.

"The American people would be outraged," said Dennis Henigan, general counsel for the Handgun Control pressure group. A repeal would be "disastrous public policy and a slap in the face to many grieving families in Oklahoma," the *Los Angeles Times* declared. The fall-

out from America's deadliest terrorist act may damage the Republican cause in other ways too. Just as the Democrats suffered from the actions of extreme left-wing black and anti-war groups in the 1960s, so the Republicans may be hurt by the way the "militia movement" has carried its message to violent extremes.

The government bureau credit the Republicans have vilified over the past few months are the very people that perished in the bombing, and are now seen as martyred public servants. The Republicans want to slash the federal government and return power to the states, yet no state could have mounted the past week's astonishing nationwide manhunt nor the impressive federal relief effort.

For President Clinton, who has been struggling to prove his relevance, the bombing has provided political salvation. A USA Today poll yesterday showed 84 per cent approval for his handling of the crisis. It is the first time since his party's defeat in November that his approval ratings have topped the 50 per cent mark. And for the first time in 11 months, the President's overall favourable job rating stood at 52 per cent. Last week, before the bombing, his rating was 46 per cent.

Even Mr Dole acknowledged that the President had acted decisively and struck just the right tone of anger and determination.

choice of Buck Buchanan, arguing that Josh Bogen, the unsuccessful white candidate, has an exemplary record of defending blacks and protecting their civil rights.

The case was brought to national attention yesterday by *The New York Times*, which reported that Mr Clinton had rejected the Justice Department's choice of Mr Bogen because he had earlier appointed a white man as Mississippi's other US Attorney and was determined to have diversity. Mr Buchanan, 37, has spent just four years working for the present US Attorney, has handled few if any major cases, and did not seek

the job. In contrast Mr Bogen is 50, has argued hundreds of cases before the state's highest courts and has represented more blacks than whites.

Johnnie Wells, the black chairman of Mississippi's Democratic Party, has written to Mr Clinton urging him to reconsider. Although in favour of affirmative action, he said, "I'm not in favour of putting a black person in a position just for the sake of being in the past." Buck Buchanan will not give up the African-American presence that he secured. He doesn't have the experience and he doesn't have the independence.

President faces new 'job quota' dispute

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

PRESIDENT Clinton was yesterday embroiled in a highly damaging dispute over his plans to appoint an inexperienced lawyer as Mississippi's first black US Attorney instead of a highly-qualified white candidate recommended by the Justice Department.

It is precisely this sort of reverse discrimination that has caused such a furious backlash among white Americans against government affirmative action programmes. Compounding the President's discomfort, even prominent blacks and Democrats in Mississippi oppose his

choice of Buck Buchanan, arguing that Josh Bogen, the unsuccessful white candidate, has an exemplary record of defending blacks and protecting their civil rights.

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Sleek summer style from top to bottom

Right at the start of the spring/summer collections last October in Milan, Gianni Versace set the tone. His show began with five models identically dressed in short-sleeved shirts worn with sleek, stretch, pencil skirts, the hemlines of which fell just below the knee. Coloured pale pink, lilac, soft turquoise blue, watery apple green, and sorbet yellow, the outfits provided the template for the coming season.

This pared-down, two-piece way to dress is new-look glamour. Understated and understyled, it combines the relaxed informality we have come to expect in the 1990s with a breezy, near-50 silhouette straight from the 1950s.

Many of this summer's most stylish little knitted shirts evoke the sporty spirit of the traditional polo shirt. Lacoste and Ralph Lauren continue to offer versions, now updated with a cut which clings to the body. The American designer Mark Eisen and the British retail chain Miss Selfridge have both transformed the shirt into a little dress. However, it is the trim top which is making fashion's pulse beat faster. Kookai, CK Calvin Klein and French Connection have some of the best. Agnes B cut theirs in sparkly Lurex.

The look is unmistakably nostalgic, dubbed "secretary smart" by the fashion cognoscenti, who gaze backwards to some half-imagined, half-remembered time when secretaries worked in typing pools — and supposedly clicked their high heels with as much gusto as they hit their typewriter keys. Fast-forwarded to the present day, this slick image works just as well in the workplace as it does during the cocktail hour or on holiday. *Neat chic.*

Think Fifties
typing pool for
cool, pared-down
glamour — neat
knitted top,
pencil-slim skirt



Fashion
IAIN R. WEBB

"This look is simple and comfortable," Lisa Armstrong, associate editor at *Vogue*, says. "What's great about these little knitted shirts is that you have all the comfort of a knitted piece but they look quite

tailored — so you don't have to wear a jacket to look smart." Nothing could be easier. Which is why almost every designer and high street retailer is offering something along these lines for summer 1995, although, naturally, the fabrics and price tags vary.

For his own label Karl Lagerfeld features cropped shirts in flesh tones; for Chloe he teams pale sweaters with satin slip skirts edged in black lace. Gucci offers a round-necked, sleeveless sweater in bright red, teamed with striking floral print pencil skirts, as well as the little knitted jacket (practically a cardigan) with a three-quarter sleeve. This is a shape favoured by Ferragamo, Calvin Klein and Nicole Farhi, in barely-there shades.

There can be few labels as fashionable as Prada, whose spare silhouette has been copied the world over. Prada's summer uniform is a V-neck, short-sleeved sweater (sometimes button-through) belted with a sliver of thin patent leather and worn with a matching, knitted pencil skirt.

Ralph Lauren put pink short-sleeved sweaters (plus matching cardigans) with flirty satin skirts. Marks & Spencer, which always seems to provide the latest must-have looks at prudent prices, has fluffy, sleeveless slipovers in pale ice-cream shades.

Skirts should be pencil-thin, tracing the outline of the 1950s silhouette. Cut in the new superstretch satins and jerseys, they are certainly not as restricting as their predecessors. In cotton and linen, choose skirts with slits at the back to ease movement.

Keep accessories to a bare minimum. All you need is a pair of nude tights — Cosmetics for Legs from Sock Shop come in factor shades just like a suntan, and are undetectable to the eye — and a pair of high heels to clatter by the pool. Swimming, that is, not typing.

RIGHT Blue marl cropped jumper, £57, John Smadley Harry Nichols, SW1. Harrods, SW1. American Retro, 35 Old Compton St. W1. White stretch Gucci skirt, £45, Outset, 35 Brompton Rd, SW1 and branches nationwide. White patent belt, Otto Glanz department stores.

FAR RIGHT Cardigan, £129, skirt, £79, Nicole Farhi, 156 New Bond St, W1. 6 Market St, Manchester (0171-499 9358). Belt, £19.50, Otto Glanz, as above.

Photographs by IAIN R. WEBB. Make-up by Micki Garoener, hair by Gordon Pindar.



TOP LEFT: Tank top, £19.99, Jeffrey Rogers, branches nationwide (inquiries 0171-206 4300). Skirt, £29.99, Warehouse nationwide. **ABOVE:** Mauve knit polo top, £102, Burberrys, 18-22 Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 3343). Black satin pencil skirt, £69, Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1.



HOTLINE

● **THOSE** intending to buy and wear hats this season are invited to a customer evening held by the milliners Herbert Johnson and a team of hairstylists from Michaeljohn. Champagne will be flowing from 10am to 6pm on May 2 and 3 at Herbert Johnson, 30 New Bond Street, London W1.

● **ASSETS** has opened its first shop in the UK, housing its full range of men's and women's knitwear. Favoured by Americans (New York boasts two shops), the summer collection features light, textured shapes in a rainbow of colours. Until Tuesday May 2 *Times* readers can get a 10 per cent discount on knitwear by presenting an original of this Hotline. Assets is at 29 Floral Street, London WC2.

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Fortysomething working women may grumble, but a cruise-taking, tennis-playing life of Riley is just around the corner

Come up refreshed after a mid-life dip

I PRESSED my nose, wishfully to Sunday's list of the highest earning women in Britain. It was nice to see more businesswomen up there this year with the novelists and supermodels, even if you do suspect that the chairperson of Barbour (£2.1 million) is in some devilish, sisterly cahoots with Joanna Trollope (£600,000) to boost waxed-jacket sales by televising rural sagas.

Pleasing, too, to know that Barbara Cartland wipes the floor with Naomi Campbell, that the MD of the company that makes Fibersol's Friends is doing better than Anita Roddick, and that shortbread manufacturing — done the right way — still brings in more than being a Celebrity Former Weathergirl or editing the *New Yorker*.

Alas, the fantasy was dissipated by yesterday's *Balder*, crasser survey on working women. That magazine, *Top Santé Health & Beauty* took 2,000 professional women, average age 39, a

third want to give up work, 40 per cent fantasise about being "a lady of leisure", and over half "feel exhausted at least once a week". They spoke of depression and feeling put upon. "Worn down," said the headlines. "Women want out."

Of course, researchers have a lamentable habit of believing what we tell them. Witness the participants all those 20-year-olds saying they wouldn't have babies. We all said that, at 20. Here, I suspect that some of the 2,000 merely took it as a God-given opportunity for a safe grumble. Women, after all, are always having to ease down their disgust at life to reassure emotionally fragile men and children. "Mummy's fine, just lying on the floor for a minute... No, darling, I like working, wouldn't let you be the sole

breadwinner even if you weren't on short-time. Anyway, I must be a proactive role model for little Germaine."

After a few days of such selfless half-truths, my Mummy would seize a chance to express, anonymously, her exhaustion, resentment and general desire to raise two fingers to the throat-lozenge business and loll around on a tiger-skin being fed grapes. I bet men feel that way too, behind the mask.

Especially — and this is the interesting bit — at the research's "average age 39". I have long suspected that there is a noticeable mid-life dip in almost every-



LIBBY PURVES

one's vitality. As a young professional in your twenties you were resilient, confident and carefree. Then you discover that once you have children, not only have you more to do at home, but you grow tired about your job; you really dare not lose it now. So — if male — you put up with indignities and passings-over; if female, you rush back too soon after maternity leave and strain every sinew to pretend that you never think of home.

The State, for all its tedious bluster, does little to help families. Employers don't care. Childless friends find you boring. You work hard, try to be a good

parent, and accept that you are an adult and must put away childish things, like fun. Once, in the early years of parenthood, I came upon an old diary, and realised with a shock that there was a time when I had nothing at all to do except earn a living and keep myself amused. It seemed inconceivable.

It is hard to see out of the dip. Bored by coughs and bad backs and all the small ailments of exhaustion, you accept it as the onset of old age. Like Judith in *Cold Comfort Farm* you regard yourself as "a used gourd... a rind... a husk" and resign yourself to struggling on to your children's maturity before you lie down in a ditch and die. Working mothers feel like this, and say so. Men do, too, but hide it under the desperate troop-

ship bonhomie of the commuter train. But, presto! Just over the forward edge of the dip you notice a lot of fit, handsome, laughing people well over 50, leading the life of Riley: filling the cruise-ships and tennis clubs, sailing the Atlantic, touching their toes with flat palms, writing bestsellers, making breakthroughs in their research, studying Zen, eating out. They look far younger than you feel. Hope stirs... I once thought of doing a book in which fit, bouncing people in their third age reminisced incredulously about how tired they were at 43. You could market it as a tonic for the weary mid-lifers. I didn't do it because I was too tired, and feared it might not be true anyway. I would, however, gratefully accept testimonials from any vigorous old trouts of either sex who can confirm that my hunch is right: that they were once used gourds and husks, and that it does get better.

Ben Macintyre, in Oklahoma City, reports on the broken-Heartland of America

They were ordinary folk — they deserved to stay that way

In an almost deserted restaurant a mile from the bombed-out Alfred Murrah Building in downtown Oklahoma City, Dent, a federal narcotics agent, very drunk, demands a toast to his friend and colleague, who died in the explosion. Then would the says "Shouldn't have shared the same fate, but by chance he was teaching a ruling 'course' in a nearby building when the bomb went off."

We smile glassed of "Hot Damn!", a powerful local cigar/association offered by Dent with insistence. "This is for my buddy, a US customs officer. He isn't with us anymore."

Throughout Oklahoma City, people are burying their dead, and trying to cope with the events of the last week in confusion, sorrow, guilt and anger. After he has wiped his eyes, Dent's fury is superhuman. He pulls out the glass he is licensed to carry and says he would kill the alleged bomber Timothy McVeigh himself if he ever saw him in open court.

Oklahoma, the broken-Heartland of America, never expected or wanted to be the focus of a horrified world. As the devastating terror in the aftermath of the bombing subsides into stricken realism, at single act of devastating violence has fractured into a series of individual human tales — many tragic, some heroic, and a few despicable.

O.E. Gandy, a clerk from the town of Guthrie, near Oklahoma City, they not know it, but he has become a key figure in this city's struggle to come to terms with the bombing. Last week Mr Gandy said he planned to erect a family of six children, aged between seven and 22 years old, even though they had been orphaned by the blast. Timothy McVeigh may be the most hated man in America, but Mr Gandy is running a close second, an ogre closer to home and, unlike terrorism, a problem with an easy solution.

Mr Gandy, who insists he is owed \$1,500 (£1,000) in back rent, is implacable in his determination to throw the children of the Luster family out of their dilapidated single-storey house, next Friday, claiming he has "beats over backwards" to help these people.

Robert and Donna Luster

west in the social security office of the federal building when the bomb exploded. They were there to beg for a full disability pension for Mr Luster, who lost his job after a heart attack in 1992. They are believed to be among the scores of people still missing and, despite the rigid optimism of rescue workers, now presumed dead.

"When it says in the paper they died, I'll give 'em a little something," Mr Gandy told a local newspaper, while still insisting "they gotta be gone. If not, I'll spend \$40 and get the sheriff to set 'em out."

According to the Red Cross, the public response to the predicament of the Luster children has been "overwhelming". From across America, the money has poured in, along with offers of free accommodation and threats to Mr Gandy, who has now disappeared.

If the "evil landlord" has become a convenient figment for this city's rage, then the fate of Rebecca Anderson has provided a contrasting image of selfless sacrifice. Mrs Anderson, a 36-year-old registered nurse who had rushed to the bomb-blasted building to tend to the victims, died on Sunday after apparently suffering a heart attack from falling concrete inside the staggering structure. Within hours of her death, Mrs Anderson's heart was transplanted into Tim Oklahoma's man, William Wilkerson, who had been flown to therapy from Lapsen by a surgeon jet for the operation. Mr Wilkerson, 55, was described as "stable" in Oklahoma City's University Hospital yesterday.

Even the rescue dogs are having to be treated for depression

Other, less dramatic acts of heroism and clarity reflect the shock and agonising success as this city tries to rebuild its faith in human nature. The "medics and firemen who still scramble for life in the ruins: the ice-cream salesman who offered an endless supply of his product to the city's hospitals; the florist who provided a rose for every one of the estimated 12,000 people at last Sunday's memorial service for the victims; the local funeral parlour donating free children's coffins; the pet food manufacturer who supplied high-protein dog food for the exhausted



Another's despair — Edye Smith clutches a photograph of her two dead sons, aged two and three, at a prayer service



Orphaned: Robbie Luster and his wife face eviction

police dogs combing the wreckage.

Among the multiple dead, there are many whose terrible fates have already become woven into the city's desperate symbolism: the Marine recruiter who perished still sitting at a desk in his office in the shattered building; Rick Tomlin, a civil servant who was talking to his wife on the telephone when the blast

just happened to be getting a file from another office when his own was utterly destroyed; another man who had walked into the lift at 9.04am on April 19, plummeted seven floors, and then emerged, bruised but alive, at the bottom.

It is hard to imagine a place more emotionally and psychologically unprepared for such devastation than Oklahoma City. "Nothing happens here, certainly not this," remarked a checkout girl in the hotel gift shop. Oklahomans were proud of being just regular folks. Here, humdrum was a virtue.

The raw bafflement is visible on the faces of the people who come, every day, to stand by the yellow tape that cordons off the eviscerated building. They bring doughnuts and back braces, blankets and cash.

Last week an Oklahoma City television station set up a site for donations on the outskirts of the city, and the locals dug into pockets that are far from deep. A two-mile queue of cars formed immediately and monotonously, their

headlights blazing in memory of the victims, tossed notes and coins into large bins as they drove by. In just a few hours, the station had collected \$150,000.

Oklahomans, rightly, have praised themselves and been praised by others for their courageous response to the tragedy, yet this is plainly a city in the grip of a nervous breakdown.

The strain is telling not just on the citizens, but also on exhausted rescue workers and medical personnel. Even the rescue dogs have become depressed as the fruitless search for survivors continues.

At the end of each day their handlers like rescues, by placing live people in corners of the building, so the dogs can "find" them and keep up their spirits.

Psychiatric helpines and bereavement centres have been set up by local authorities, and even members of the media have been offered stress counselling, but the one-perky local television networks have now all but run out of comforting words: between news bulletins, many local stations now broadcast computer-enhanced photographs of the explosion and images of destruction, death and bravery, over mournful music.

The Oklahoma bombing has become a grim drama in retrospect, performed by a cast of characters — the good, the bad and the dead — who expected to remain just ordinary folks, and deserved so.

The Jackie obsession

Kate Muir reports on a Yale professor's heroine-worship

What does a professor of English literature at Yale have in common with millions of polyester-clad ladies in Middle America with biscuit-tins full of magazine clippings? Answer: an enduring obsession with Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

Rather than sitting at home alone with his biscuit tin, however, Professor Wayne Koestenbaum has confronted his preoccupation head-on, taken a firm academic grip on the subject of Jackie-as-icon, and produced a fine book, *Jackie Under My Skin*. This is no trivial analysis — his book is published by the intellectual house of Farrar, Straus and Giroux on the first anniversary of Jackie's death, May 19.

Mr Koestenbaum points out that Jackie's image was projected to large and often on the public consciousness that "even when she was alive she seemed more mythic than real". The Jackie he both worships and dissects is not real either — she is a cipher, a public persona, an image. Her preference for privacy, her shunning of interviews, combined with her glamorous appearance, made her the perfect blank slate for fantasy. She was somehow pure. "What a safe celebrity to contemplate!" exults Koestenbaum.

Yet it was Jackie's journey from the sacred to the profane, from grieving widow to wife of millionaire shipping magnate, that also fascinated us. Mr Koestenbaum mourns the loss of Jacqueline Kennedy, but "the Jackie O whose spirit I adored — a pleasure principle: a woman who migrated from sanctity to scandal, and who demonstrated the secrets of extravagant living".

All the more curious, then, that she returned, and was returned by the media, to the original Mrs Kennedy with her death. She was, after all, buried beside the philandering JFK at Arlington Cemetery, despite having gone by the name of Mrs Onassis for more than 20 years.

There was a certain "vampirish cosmopolitanism" about her that a 36-year-old man who teaches a course on the major British poets from Chaucer to Eliot found attractive. Of her signature sunglasses, he says: "Few could get away with sunglasses so grand, and to wear such an attention-getting accessory under the guise of wishing to deflect notice seemed disingenuous, or foxily paradoxical."

Of her bouffant hairdos, he

notes: "Hair of a certain massiveness is not feminine: it is a bulbous defensive armament." Because Jackie rarely spoke, her hairdo served as ego.

Such thoughts did not occur to Koestenbaum when he started writing the book, long before Jackie was known to have cancer. Somehow he dared not be so intimate or irreverent. But after he stood for hours in the crowd outside the church during her funeral, her death eventually liberated his ideas: "I totally let go. I didn't feel the freedom until I was referring to a person who was no longer real."

For gay men, Jackie (only the first name is necessary) has always been a great diva to worship. In Koestenbaum's diva ratings, Jackie is right up



Jackie: academic subject

there with Elizabeth Taylor, and trailing behind in his "personal pantheon" are Judy Garland, Madonna, Barbra Streisand and Eartha Kitt. He has written an acclaimed book of poems about his obsession with the opera singer Anna Moffo, and a prize-winning book on opera and homosexuality.

So has Professor Koestenbaum ever dressed up as Jackie? "No, I don't make a good drag queen, but I certainly have certain men's clothes, a shiny black jacket for instance, which I think of as my Jackie outfit. They have a private significance."

It turns out that Koestenbaum actually saw Jackie four times. His last sighting was at a book party in 1993, when she must already have known she had cancer.

In all, this is a work, and a man, of great eccentricity. As a recent review puts it: "Koestenbaum... makes connections so personal that they provoke nothing more than wonder that an associate professor at Yale has so much time on his hands."

© Jackie Under My Skin will be published by Fourth Estate later this year.



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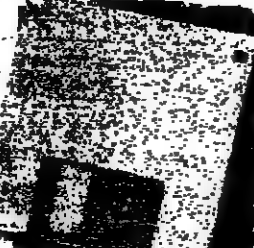
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Now Dublin is blocking peace talks

Paul Bew says it is no longer the Unionists who are stalling progress

The announcement of the first meeting between a British minister and the Irish republican leadership since 1972 has to be a symbolic moment in the Ulster peace process. But its significance has been much reduced by the recent publication of the Anglo-Irish "framework document", which set out the broad parameters and even the fine detail of any possible future alternative to the status quo.

In the 1970s, contacts between the British Government and the IRA took place at a time when government policy was exceptionally fluid — even flaky in Harold Wilson's case. The Irish Government was then a marginal player, whereas today it is centre-stage, and, contrary to popular belief, requires that the British should not withdraw in the foreseeable future.

The important change to note here is the triumph of a new revisionist republican rhetoric, dispiriting traditionalists, such as Bernard McAliskey (née Devlin). This new republican rhetoric makes much of ministers' claims of Britain's strategic and economic neutrality, which have flowed thick and fast in the 1990s. Yet these are hardly so novel, even if at times Sir Patrick Mayhew appears to be uncomfortable with them.

In 1949, when the recent strategic lessons of the world war would have dictated a different conclusion, Westminster based the Union solely on the wishes of the Northern Irish electorate. It is the case that some senior officials did believe then that Britain had a selfish strategic interest in Ireland — today none does. To that significant extent, because it has important implications for the culture of Whitehall, the Ulster Unionist position has been weakened by the new British formula of neutrality.

Undoubtedly, many Unionists will be angered by the meeting; in particular, they will feel the Government has softened its stand on decommissioning of terrorist arms, in order to ease the path of the Sinn Féin leadership. But it should not be assumed that mainstream Unionists will attempt to block Sinn Féin's full and substantive participation in democratic politics, eventually — but only if the threat of violence is removed.

In his impressive Irish Association speech in Dublin, John Taylor, who is MP for Strangford and was himself the victim of an IRA assassination attempt, said: "Having been on the receiving end of the IRA campaign, I know Winnie will be a bitter pill for Unionists to swallow, but [Sinn Féin's] effectiveness and ingenuity cannot be denied. Time is a great healer though."

In the past two months, the British Government's rhetoric has undergone a dramatic change. Michael Ancram, who will be leading the negotiations for the government with Sinn Féin, now describes the Anglo-Irish proposals for

harmonising cross-border institutions as "not wide swaths but specific areas", which are entirely subject to the "agreement of the parties". In significant measure this was what was always intended, but at the time of the original Times leak, the project was indisputably more grandiose. Now, Mr Ancram's watchwords are "carefully defined" and "clearly limited". He also offers the rather testing criterion (given the high level of government expenditure in the North) that any co-operation must "produce better results for the people of Northern Ireland than doing it unilaterally" — whereas before, Unionist opposition to purely "Green" proposals for change could have been discounted.

The republican leadership seems determined to stand on this rather prosaically defined terrain, giving a rather nostalgic retrospective, 1980s feel to the world evoked in Kevin Toolis's interesting book about the IRA, *Rebel Hearts*.

It is, however, clear that all is not well on another decisive front: the dropping of the Irish territorial claim. Public comments by the Irish Government display an increasing and telling unease on this topic. Last July, Sir Patrick Mayhew said: "What Unionists are looking for in order to gain more confidence is an abandonment of the territorial claim to the North expressed in terms that don't need a constitutional lawyer to tease out the meaning and intent." John Major took a similar line, but in the end, the whole matter was fudged.

The Irish Government did move significantly by offering to incorporate the principle of northern consent into the Irish constitution, but it refused to drop the words "the national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland" — on which a unanimous Irish Supreme Court had founded the "territorial claim" as recently as March 1990. The *quid pro quo* for Unionist participation in North-South institutions has thus been diluted, and the whole matter is up in the air.

Yet a significant and much needed modernisation of Ulster Unionist politics may be possible in the next few months — if it is not hampered by further similar inter-governmental crassness. James Moynihan is right to insist that the Ulster Unionists have continued to perform solidly in council by-elections since the Times leak — but the question marks against his leadership are unlikely to go away.

John Taylor's impressive and broadminded speeches in the Irish Republic were acts of political courage from an unexpected source. The question is whether his Unionist colleagues are also willing to fight their corner while appearing reasonable even to their opponents.

The author is professor of Irish politics at Queen's University, Belfast.



ANTI-FEDERALIST MILITIA, NOV '94 - APRIL '95

For weddings and divorces

Yes, divorce should be made easier — but marrying should be made harder

Tomorrow the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will announce his changes to the law on divorce. They are sensational and they are sensible. Lord Mackay wishes to make the law blind to marital fault. If a marriage has broken down, judges must recognise the fact and be concerned solely with practicalities. There will be no more five-year waits for automatic divorce, two-year waits for "no-fault" divorce or "quickies" provided a partner can prove adultery, desertion or "unreasonable behaviour". A British divorce will take one year. That is the time judged necessary to arrange so momentous a break and clear up the mess.

The response will be much flapping of mires and surpluses, of wigs and gowns, of tweeds and pearls. Who is this Scots Presbyterian, the conservatives will cry, to come down from the north and tell us how to re-order the solemn bond of marriage? How dare he tear down the last defence of holy matrimony, the public damnation of the adulterer and the courtroom shaming of the deserter and the violent spouse? The proposals are a *cad's* charter, the critics will say. British divorce is running at twice the European rate. Lord Mackay is stripping law of all morality. He is withdrawing the State from family sponsorship. One in three marriages already ends in divorce: now the rate will soar. And this from the party of "back to basics".

I find few sights so cheering as the Dark Ages fleeing before the forces of enlightenment. Lord Mackay has pondered for two years, consulted and decided. He can see the truth: that Britain's divorce laws are cruel and costly. They are cruel because they insist either on an unreasonable delay or, to avoid this, on proving one or other party to be at fault. Such proof can be acrimonious and traumatic to the parties and their children.

Yet because it is the only way of shortening the delay, it is used in 75 per cent of divorce settlements. Couples are marched into legally fortified camps. Adversarial court procedure leaves no scope for mediation, and pre-empting a concern for future sharing of income and access to children.

Lord Mackay wants to stop this dead. Those who want to use a court can do so. But he will set up a mediation service to avoid couples having to

do so. Both will take a year. The purpose is not to prolong the agony of a failed marriage, but to ensure that a legal procedure is handled with least hurt. That is the extent of the State's obligation. It should not make a traumatic event more traumatic or a costly one more costly. It should not use a chainsaw where a scalpel will do. If a year's delay leads to reconciliation, so much the better. But that is not the State's business. To some of Lord Mackay's critics, the harshness of divorce litigation is meant to be a deterrent, indeed a form of retributive punishment. If a marriage has broken down, some body must be "in the wrong". He or she must be taken to court and blamed. Miseries and mistakes must be exposed and subjected to the foul fiends of due process. In America, lawyers have turned divorce into public pornography, much to the delight of the newspapers and the movie industry. Psychologists talk of the courtroom ritual being necessary to expiate the marriage failure, a sort of marital gibbet on which every past error can be left swinging a while, before being laid to rest. Besides, say the critics, in many divorces there is a wronged party. Why should they not have justice? "I will have my bond."

We know that children are damaged by divorce. We also know they are damaged by violent and incompatible marriages. We cannot possibly balance these accidents of infant life against those of adult misery in some great *leifsig* calculus. Besides, who is this "we" that claims such omniscience and omnipotence?

I maintain that on balance easier divorce increases the sum both of human freedom and of human happiness. Humans do not willingly seek misery for themselves or their offspring — and if they do, laws are unlikely to stop them. For centuries the Church made divorce expensive and the State made it difficult. Both had

no time for Milton's plea for the end of love, for "unreason", rather than adultery to be the grounds for divorce, or for Shelley's claim that marriage "is naturally dissolved when its evils are greater than its benefits". Because adultery is a fact, and misery a state of mind, and because the law loves facts, "fault" has lingered on in modern divorce law.

The surge in divorce that follows each liberalisation is not a sign of decadence. It means that more people can afford to break out of the misery of a failed union. Britain's "deplorable" divorce figures, poured over by social scientists and Tory MPs alike, are nothing of the sort. Nor should any further surge that follows the Mackay reforms be seen that way. More widespread divorce is a sign that recognising marital collapse in Britain has become less classbound and expensive. I cannot believe that British marriages are less happy or more reckless than those in, for instance, Latin countries. Nor do I believe British parents are more callous towards their children.

It is for individuals, not the State, to balance these human gains and losses. For millions, divorce is not just a moment of sadness and regret, but a moment of rebirth, a resumption of the quest for a better life. Liberalisation shows a community robust enough not to impede that quest. The legal stigma on divorce is a hangover of tribal primitivism. (What the Church of England says on the matter is not my business.)

The Mackay proposals are a rare example of government humility. They accept that ministers cannot legislate to make people happy, only to keep them unhappy. They cannot nationalise the family. The new mediation service is meant to be friendly, to encourage the separating parties to settle issues of income, property and children without an

adversarial process. Mediation should not be compulsory and is only concerned with "getting couples back together" if that is what they want. The reform is meant to ensure that the parties know what they are about, understand the pains and pitfalls and reach agreement on their lives and those of any children. Lord Mackay said in 1993 that couples should "take personal responsibility for what has happened to their marriage and for the consequences of breaking it". Removing the concept of fault and ensuring time for reflection and planning must reduce cost and bitterness. It must be a step forward from institutionalised acrimony.

I doubt if all this will end the stigma. Many married people regard easier divorce as a threat. It disturbs their peace of mind. It is the unthinkable come to haunt their dreams and feed their inner doubts. Easier divorce is the crumbling of a distant dyke, bringing nearer some feared deluge. They journey it as selfishly hedonistic, an easy way out. Hence the outcry that greets each year's divorce figures, second only to the hysteria that surrounds those on crime. Yet there is little evidence that the public as a whole shares this view. A MORI poll five years ago put divorce at the bottom of a long list of "morally wrong" actions, far below homosexuality, illegitimacy, cohabitation and euthanasia. A similar poll for the Lord Chancellor's Department indicates wide support for no-fault divorce.

There is one other way to get tough on divorce, but even Lord Mackay would find it too radical. If the law now considers a marriage so important that it should take a year to dissolve, why should it not take a year to construct? I have no doubt the principal reason for divorce is thoughtless, over-hasty marriage. If there is to be a statutory "period of reflection" before a divorce is granted, why not a similar period before granting a marriage licence? Twelve months, between first signing the registry and final "man-and-wife" nuptials would, I am sure, save a mountain of misery. Yet the Church of England, which still opposes divorce, requires just three weeks of banns. If some people were more concerned to forestall inappropriate weddings, they would have less need to stigmatise the resulting divorces.

Simon Jenkins

Alan Coren



Now another lot are trying to put me off my food

In a moment, we shall attempt to consider the freshness of barns. But before that, let us take a little trip back to July 1974, and to a house in Gloucester Crescent, NW1, then as now the epicentre of ideological rectitude for those in a position to afford it, where a face not entirely dissimilar from the one above this paragraph is framed in the open sash of an elegant Regency window.

Its only dissimilarity, give or take the odd footmark testifying to 20 years of passing crows, is that the mouth is not grinning. Indeed, it scarce resembles a mouth at all. It is more like the backside of a cat. It is as pursed as a mouth can get, and it does not know what to do with the contents pursuing it. It would spit them through the open sash, but there are hydrangeas out there, and if my host awoke next morning to find them shrivelled, he might recall my standing by the window. So, at last, I swallow. I shall not describe the next few seconds, other than to observe that those who think resins is something boxers wipe their feet in may not be wrong.

For this was a party thrown to celebrate the fact that the Greek junta had just been given the elbow, to the boundless delight of what later came to be called the chattering classes, who had not permitted themselves to drink anything Greek since 1967. I, who had never drunk anything Greek at all, could only wonder, as my entrails puckered, how great a sacrifice to democracy theirs might have been.

Sardines, though, were a different kettle of fish. There is nothing like a Portuguese sardine, but who could eat them while their country loomed beneath the fascist vote? That is why April 25, 1974, was such a big day for us anti-fascists, with the fall of Caetano, what a joy it now was to wake up peckish at 3am! Not mind, if you fancied a South African grapefruit, or a goblet of Spanish sherry, for these delights were yet to be along with countless other foodstuffs from benighted nations whose cellars then teemed with jackbooted apparitions of pliers.

Nor, given the volatility of politics, was spending these always easy, if didn't take much to pry a *Guardian* subscriber off his tucker, and even if you were planning only an informal little supper, you would be wise to read the paper's every word before going into Sainsbury's to spend an hour scrutinising labels for countries of origin, since a shift to the right in, say, some Danish by-election could, if you had not noticed it, mean a nice bit of boiled gammon ending up in the bin.

But then, suddenly, everything was all right. All the regimes which stood between liberals and a great night out had fallen, you could guzzle anything from anywhere to your consciences' content, and the anxious host no longer needed to be on the go-vive for every political tremor.

This golden era lasted for about ten minutes: for the thing with ethics is that they abhor a vacuum, and that is why we must now address the freshness of barns. I refer, of course, to Monday's Co-op report which declared that 60 per cent of shoppers were concerned about "ethically unsound food". The capacity, furthermore, of this unsoundness appears limitless: it is, it seems, not enough to be told that a free-range egg is "barn-fresh", it is also essential to know how fresh the barn itself was. (I can only pray that caring readers will forgive me if I admit that upon reaching this point in the Co-op narrative, I found myself wool-gathering a movie entitled *Barn Fresh*, in which Elsa the Chicken, having been raised by Joy Adamson from an egg, is at last, to heart-wrenching musical accompaniment, returned to the wild, to lay eggs of her own.)

This ethical commitment does not of course stop at chickens: the upbringing of anything edible must apparently conform to the exacting standards of that majority of the populace who need to know their dinner was living the life of Riley up until the moment they sank their teeth into it. It will thus not be possible for the rest of us, to invite anyone over, ever again. Forgive me, but asked whether a sardine, went into his tin to serve the interests of a representative regime, I can only answer, how ever, whether it was happy to do so, I fear, I shouldn't have the faintest idea where to begin.

Pooh Corner

A STATUE guaranteed to bring a nostalgic tear to the eye of many a middle-aged child is to be erected at London Zoo. It will depict Winnie, the regimental mascot posted at the zoo in 1914, which inspired A.A. Milne to write his children's stories about a bear of very little brain.

The real-life bear belonged to Canadian troops stationed in Britain before the First World War. When they were relocated to the Continent, the bear was given to the zoo. Milne was a frequent visitor to Regent's Park after the war, and he used to take his son, Christopher Robin, to feed Winnie.

Christopher Robin Milne, now 75, remembers Winnie with affection — even though he has always struggled to rid himself of the legacy of his fictionalised childhood. But honey does not appear to have been Winnie's staple diet. "I used to be allowed into the compound with the keeper," he says. "Winnie was about my height — I must have been five or six — and I would take him a tin of something. Condensed milk rather than honey. I'm not sure that he performed any tricks, but at least he never bit me."

A spokeswoman for London Zoo confirmed that Britain's first statue of Winnie-the-Pooh will be



Pooh: remembered at last

erected in June. They have made one for Winnipeg and the Canadians are donating a replica to Britain. It will be put up in the children's zoo.

Wish granted

HUGH GRANT said recently that his unfulfilled ambition was to play football on the turf of Fulham Football Club's Craven Cottage, where he has been a supporter man and boy. Now his chance has come. The club has invited him to play in a game next month to celebrate the 20th anniversary of his last FA Cup Final appearance — against West Ham.

Grant will be tempted. He is so devoted to Fulham that he even chose as one of his *Desert Island Discs* an appalling song recorded by the team to commemorate the

event, *Y Viva El Fulham*. But his celebrity team could be only the warm-up act for the real thing. Fulham has recalled all members of both 1975 teams, as well as the referee, for a replay. The only absentee will be the late Bobby Moore, who was playing for Fulham. They lost 2-0.

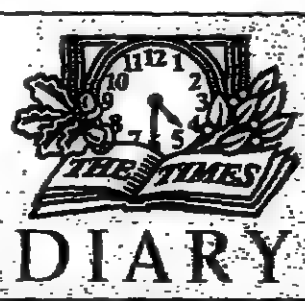
Such is his stature in the social firmament that I managed inadvertently to confer a knighthood on the astronomer Patrick Moore the other day. The master of the night sky asks me to point out that he is still a plain mister. Not for long though, surely.

Don't dig

IT WAS ONLY recently that Lord Romsey's neighbours were objecting to his plans to build a superstore on part of the Broadlands estate in Hampshire, where he lives. Now there are complaints about proposals to extract gravel.

A site of nearly 200 acres on the estate has been earmarked for gravel-extraction by Hampshire County Council, and Lord Romsey has apparently given the scheme the nod. But the peer's local councillors at Test Valley are appalled on environmental grounds.

"It will be disastrous," storms Romsey councillor Doris Bounding in the local newspaper. "We all feel very strongly about it." And over councillor Garry Rankin-Moore is



preparing to fight. "We should stick to our guns and say no," Romsey himself is sensibly keeping his head down.

The latest joke doing the rounds in banking circles concerns the Bruce Grobbelaar goalkeeper account: the less you save, the more you earn.

Lord's claws

HOSTILITY to dumping Labour's Clause Four has emerged from a surprising quarter — the House of Lords. At a recent meeting of Labour peers, a stalwart group of unperturbed Socialists staunchly protested at Tony Blair's new Labour doctrine.

"As far as I am concerned the retention of Clause Four is essential in order to maintain a belief in socialism and public ownership," puffs the veteran peer from Liverpool, Lord Seldon, who alarmed

party chiefs by expounding his views at the meeting.

As quick as a coyote, Labour's deputy leader in the Lords, Lord McNair, moved that the peers should not vote at all on the issue.

Big deal

THE WORLD'S first Gaelic McDonald's, where menus and signs will be in both English and the ancient Celtic language, has been given planning permission in the Western Highlands.

Such unpromising delicacies as Mac Mor agus slisneagan (Big Mac and fries) will be available at a 46-seater drive-thru restaurant planned for Fort William. The £750,000 project at an An Aird retail estate has been allowed on condition that high-quality materials and a more attractive design than usual are used to blend with other developments. Fort William will be among the smallest towns in Britain to have a McDonald's. But then it is in the heartland of the Clan MacDonald.



Has that wretched cat been at your scratchcard again?

Spare horns

THE CUMBERSOME rhinoceros costume in which Viscountess Linley's brother Wilk Stanhope struggled to the top of East Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro on behalf of the charity Save the Rhino was auctioned at a party on Monday night for £1,000.

But this is by no means the last of the rhino suit's peripatetic adventures. "In 1997 we hope to walk, wearing one of the costumes, from Bombay to the top of Mount Everest," says Dave Stirling, a founding director of the charity. "I am consulting mountaineers on the feasibility factor."

Nothing is being left to chance — there are 19 more of the 30lb costumes, designed by Gerald Scarfe, hidden away for future stunts.

P.H.S



SHIP ADRIET

The rebels rebel; the crew grumbles; all quiet on deck

Rarely have Tory MPs faced such hostility on the doorstep as they did last weekend, canvassing for the local elections. Yesterday's exchanges between John Major and Tony Blair in the House of Commons, entertaining though they were, must have seemed more than usually surreal. The words that really counted for something still came from the mouths of local Tory activists who, disowning the party they have served for so long, have decided to stand next month as Independents. The thoughts that remained fast in MPs' minds were of how they might defend the Government's record to their constituency associations on their next visit — after the expected rout on May 4.

Some MPs hope that the rout can be presented as just the normal sort of rout that happens to Governments at this stage in the electoral cycle. Central Office has already played its favourite game of lowering expectations, so that a dismal result can be portrayed as a victory. Not so long ago, the loss of 1,000 seats was the benchmark for disaster. Steadily that figure has crept up towards 2,000. Party officials may still have the nerve to claim on May 5 that a 1,500 seat loss is "better than expected".

A few people may be taken in by this. Tory local activists will not be. They will know that their base in local government, the reason that many of them are Tories at all, has disappeared. Tory councillors who have done a good job locally will be uneasy through no fault of their own. Bitterness and resentment are bound to ensue.

Tory activists have loyalty to their leader in their blood; but their dissatisfaction will pass to their Westminster representatives. And in response, what will MPs say that the Government is doing? The all too obvious answer is virtually nothing. Mr Major, the captain of this troubled Tory ship, may get sympathy for encountering choppy waters: there will be none for his turning off the engine. On the issues that motivate most of his party, Mr Major has decided to drift.

News this year about the Government has been either about division or inaction. The Cabinet, we are told, has decided either not to sell off the Post Office or not to express a view on identity cards. Ministers, it is said, are forever coming up with ideas; but they are all deemed too risky to enact. This caution stems partly from the Government's small majority. But it is exacerbated by the way in which decisions are taken. When ministers disagree over a matter of policy an ad hoc committee is set up, usually chaired by the Leader of the House, Tony Newton, a man for whom a policy vacuum is a home from home.

Ships that turn off their engines in choppy seas tend to get buffeted by waves. That is what has happened to the Government in the approach to the local elections. Tony Blair's performance at Prime Minister's question time yesterday was just one particularly large and destructive wave. The traditional advantage of being in office is that it is possible to do things to make the governing party more attractive to supporters. Mr Major has turned his back on that. Norman Lamont's parting phrase about a Government "in office but not in power" would have been no less apt yesterday.

Down in the Tory engine room there are a few signs of future activity. In the months since Norman Blackwell took over the Downing Street Policy Unit, groups of ministers, backbenchers and outsiders have started meeting to develop ideas for the next manifesto. The discipline of relating possible new policies to Conservative themes seems to have made ministers think politically, instead of just administratively, about what they want to do in their departments. But future confidence requires present action: the groups need to produce ideas which the Government can use between now and the election. Meanwhile the rebels rebel, the crew is still grumbling and the captain hopes for the best.

THE PIKE IN THE THATCH

Time for a symbolic act of good faith by Sinn Fein

For the republican movement in Northern Ireland, the Government's promise of talks between Sinn Fein and a minister is heavy with symbolism. For the movement's leadership, the long-awaited handshake with a minister of the Crown has acquired an almost mystical significance. It represents more than a strategic victory, although it is undoubtedly that. To republicans, it also marks the hard-won recognition that Sinn Fein is an electoral force, worthy of "parity of esteem" with other parties.

For many Ulstermen and mainland Britons, however, the meeting will have very different connotations. The delegation which is expected to meet Michael Ancram may include three people convicted of IRA offences. It is likely to be headed by Martin McGuinness, a senior member of Sinn Fein who was jailed in the South in 1973 for his IRA membership. At the time, he said he was "very, very proud" of his association with that murderous organisation. The achievements of the peace process are already great. The paramilitary ceasefires continue and are a daily blessing to the people of the Province. But many will still find it difficult to accept that a minister of Her Majesty's Government should deal in person with such people.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, must not discount the force of this moral recoil. It is not enough to emphasise the distinction between exploratory talks and full negotiations, a distinction which will surely be blurred as the talks continue. The most important service Sir Patrick can perform for those concerned by Sinn Fein's latest publicity coup is to press for immediate progress on the decommissioning of IRA weapons. This is a more subtle matter than some Unionists suggest. It is clear that no lasting settlement is possible until the

republican movement hands over the bulk of its weapons, especially the Semtex explosive which has been the basis of its ruthless campaign of terror.

Less clear is how this process can best be undertaken. A major part of the Provisionals' early activities was the acquisition of weapons to defend Catholic areas against loyalist aggression. Republicans have never willingly handed over weapons; always keep a "pike in the thatch" runs the saying. For an organisation whose core identity depends on its possession of arms, to hand them over requires a transformation of its culture and assumptions.

Last month Sir Patrick set out a sensible three-point plan to bring about this momentous change. First, it was necessary to establish Sinn Fein's predisposition to begin the process. Secondly, the practical means by which decommissioning might be carried out should be discussed. Thirdly, some arms needed to be decommissioned as "a tangible confidence-building measure to signal the start of the process". This would show good faith, as well as illustrating how more comprehensive disarmament might proceed in future.

It is vital that the IRA meet this third demand very soon. Sinn Fein's obsession with British "demilitarisation" is absurd, given that in practice this process is already well under way. Last week 400 British soldiers left the Province, bringing the total number of troops who have been returned since the IRA ceasefire to 950. Much else has changed in the last eight months. A radical plan for constitutional change is on the table. Ministers are to meet Sinn Fein. Unionists have not disrupted the peace process. The republican movement has no right to further concessions. A gesture of good faith is urgently required.

NEW SCHOOL TIES

Britain's boarding schools look abroad

Boarding education in Britain continues to dwindle. Yesterday's survey by the Independent Schools Information Service reports that while the number of pupils at its day schools has increased slightly for the second year running, Britain's boarding school population is down by 4 per cent, so continuing its long, withdrawing fall.

The reasons must be partly economic. The average cost of sending a child to boarding school has reached £3,415 a term, a larger proportion of average earnings than ever. Now that job insecurity has reached the boarding-school classes, fee-payers are nervous about taking on such a long-running financial commitment. Fewer parents are stationed overseas for years without home leave, and the jet engine makes reunions easier than the P & O. The services, military, foreign and civil, have become less generous in paying school fees.

But the reasons are also cultural. The British may be turning against their peculiar institution. For centuries foreigners have marvelled at the British custom of sending their children away at a tender age for an education so exclusive that in other countries it could be awarded only by judges. British parents have become increasingly squeamish about sending their children out to board at an age below the sixth form. Many

modern parents do not want to be separated from their children for most of their formative years. The only growth areas for boys' boarding schools come from going coeducational (not a favour for the girls, to judge from the spectacular success of girls' schools), from the children of divorced parents (to escape the stress of a split family), and from foreigners.

As the British Empire has faded away, its former subjects want to buy the old imperial virtues of a British education. So do ambitious parents from aspirant imperial powers from Japan to Russia. From the stiff upper lip to the old school tie there were virtues as well as famous vices in the old-fashioned British boarding school. From Tom Brown to Angela Brazil, boarding school has had a potent effect on British literature as well as character. Billy Bunter and his chums formed the imaginations of millions of children who had neither the desire to go nor the prospect of being sent to boarding school. If foreigners are now beginning to perceive the virtues of the boarding system, perhaps we should beware. Let us hope that the new boarders do not imbue only the virtues of the old school tie and that the future great battles of the Nikkei index are not won on the computer keyboards of Eton.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Parliament's powers 'in dire danger'

From Viscount Tony Pandy

Sir, Since I retired from the Speaker's chair in the House of Commons in 1983, I have strictly adhered to our parliamentary tradition, which prevents former Speakers from being embroiled in party political controversies.

It is because I am convinced that the question of our national sovereignty towers above all that I feel free to submit this address to the electors of Britain.

Our Westminster Parliament is in dire danger of being demoted of its responsibilities, and of being supplanted by a European assembly controlled by a hotchpotch of European politicians and bureaucrats, who have no love for this country. Our national destiny will be subject to foreign control.

In our British heritage a special place of honour is reserved for Pym and Hampden, who so courageously fought for the rights of our Parliament against the claims of absolutism by the Crown.

Their portraits hang with pride in Speaker's House, along with that of Speaker Lenthall who defended Parliament's independence when it was challenged by Charles I.

Other parliamentary giants have followed in their wake. Names such as Palmerston and Pitt, Gladstone, Disraeli, Asquith, Lloyd George, Churchill, Attlee and the like shine in our history as fierce defenders of self-government by the British people.

They should be living in this hour, for we need support to protect our national interests from being subject to foreign control.

No political party in Britain has a mandate from the electorate to surrender our national sovereignty to foreign hands.

The current slide towards a single European currency threatens both our

economic and our political independence, and thus our sovereignty. Subterfuge and half-truths have been used to persuade the nation that neither our sovereignty nor our relationship with the Commonwealth is endangered.

There appears to be a conspiracy of silence about the fact that the United Kingdom's trade and overseas investments are still much greater with countries outside the European Union than they are with those within the Union, which is itself increasingly a puppet of a French and German alliance.

It is not too late for us to save our sovereignty.

For more than 600 years Speakers of the House of Commons have fiercely defended the supremacy of the Westminster Parliament. As one whose privilege it was to follow humbly in the steps of the mighty Speakers of the past, I call upon our nation to awake, and to demand that the voice of all our people shall be heard before the next inter-governmental conference takes irrevocable decisions affecting our sovereignty.

A national referendum conducted before, and not after, further decisions are taken is our elementary right. This is the only sure way to prevent our parliamentary sovereignty, our judicial system, and our Commonwealth relationships from being grievously undermined.

We were granted a referendum on joining an economic union, but we have never had the chance to vote on sovereignty, and the issues involved, which is our democratic right.

Yours faithfully,

TONY PANDY
(Speaker of the House of Commons, 1976-83),
House of Lords,
April 24.

A new museum of national history?

From the Editor of History Today

Sir, Roy Strong is under a misapprehension when he writes (letter, April 21) that the proposed new museum of British history, backed by a broad range of historians and museum directors, would be impractical because it would have to plunder the collections of existing institutions.

The proposers of the "History House" scheme are well aware of this, which is precisely why both in the submission to the Millennium Commission and in subsequent comment to the media it has been emphasised that it is not intended to be a traditional object-led museum. Interactive computer technology, big-screen film projection, CD-Rom displays and even live performance will tell a large part of the story of these islands.

Where artefacts are used, they will be employed as points of entry to discussing a subject and its historical significance, not as precious objects in their own right. Replicas or even holograms of objects from existing museums would be, to my mind, quite acceptable for this purpose.

A replica of the Domesday Book is just as acceptable as the real thing as a starting-point for discussing the impact of the Norman Conquest, particularly if accompanied by all the computer graphics and map projections that can show just how William the Conqueror's army wreaked havoc from London to the North.

Even with original objects, much can be done via loans for temporary exhibitions and use of reserve collections from existing museums which may be historically interesting but of lesser aesthetic importance.

I agree with Sir Roy that the National Portrait Gallery, within its spatial restraints, makes an admirable contribution to the "historical panorama" which the History House would hope to display in full. This is

precisely why I would hope it might act as one of the satellite museums from which the History House proposal envisages receiving material via computer and on-line terminals.

Yours sincerely,
GORDON MARSDEN,
Editor, *History Today*,
20 Old Compton Street, W1,
April 21.

From Dr David Starkey

Sir, Sir Roy Strong raises important practical problems with the proposed "major museum of the history of the peoples of the British Isles". But the problems require only that the proposal be rethought, not that it be abandoned.

The French have a museum of the history of France. It is not a multi-media giant, but a medium-sized, documents-based museum attached to the national archives. This seems to me to be the model we should follow.

The collections of the Public Record Office are incomparably rich, and its fine Chancery Lane building is in one of the most historically interesting parts of London. Moreover, the records themselves are in the process of being moved to the new Public Record Office at Kew. What better use could there be for the vacated Chancery Lane building than to turn it into a museum of British history with a display based round key documents from the public records and supplemented by loans from other major archives?

We have a history as proud as the French or the Americans. Should not we too have a showcase for it in the heart of our capital city?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STARKEY,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Department of International History,
Houghton Street, WC2.

Size of classes

From the General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers

Sir, Your leader of April 19, "Face the teachers", confuses several quite separate issues. The behaviour of the National Union of Teachers extremists at Blackpool (report, April 17) was appalling, by any standards, and should be condemned outright. But they do not represent anything other than a tiny minority of the teaching profession.

The class size issue is crucial. Smaller classes are needed for attention to individual pupils, to deal with the problem of differentiation and to cope with a wide ability range which exists in the overwhelming majority of classes.

In many schools children of different ages have to be taught together. Independent schools market themselves partly on small class sizes. It is seriously suggested that the benefits of independent school pupils should be denied to state school children?

Teachers understand, only too well, that within their numbers are those who perform inadequately. However, the teaching profession alone does not have a monopoly on weak members. Inadequate funding is a key issue and the teaching unions are right to campaign about it.

For your leader to argue that those unions exercise some form of control over the system flies in the face of reality. Heads and governors run schools. They are addressing the question of the quality of teaching and learning as a number one priority.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HART,
General Secretary,
National Association of Head Teachers,
1 Heath Square, Bolero Road,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex,
April 20.

Courtesy on call

From Mr James Harmsworth

Sir, Late on Easter Sunday a stolen car travelling at speed caused damage to our property, demolishing a telephone pole in the process.

Within minutes of the accident the police arrested those responsible: within hours BT engineers had removed the damaged pole, erected a new one and reconnected our telephone line. Both the police and the BT engineers showed every possible kindness and consideration towards us.

A gratuity offered to the engineers was politely refused with the comment that they were only doing their job. Very nice, very old style.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES HARMSWORTH,
Image Way,
Farm Lane,
Ashted, Surrey,
April 20.

Better to give?

From Canon Malcolm Methuen Clarke

Sir, Are mobile phones more blessed to give than to receive (letter, April 19)? They are a blessed nuisance in public places and rank third in my anathemas of 1. women priests and 2. clergymen in moustaches.

Yours truly,
METHUEN CLARKE,
11a Kingsley Road,
Northampton,
April 19.

Christ's way of life as a basis for moral obligations

From Mr Dudley Plunkett

Sir, The short answer to Matthew Parris's queries about Christian morality (column, April 17; letters, April 22) must be that Jesus did not teach a philosophy but a way of life, and he taught it mainly by example.

So he did teach the importance of the family, by living in one and by being subject to his parents. He did teach who was our neighbour not only by the parables that show that it is the person we encounter, the one placed in our path, but also by his constant care for the sick people he met and healed.

Why should Jesus have taught a morality of rules that apply to every situation when he taught something much more important, that there was a truth, an absolute?

Jesus taught that he is the truth, and human freedom comes from recognising this. So we must look to Jesus and not to any philosophy to know Christian morality. Christians rank their moral obligations by imitating Jesus, by seeking in prayer God's will for the particular situation. It works, but only for God-fearing people, not for sceptics.

Yours faithfully,
DUDLEY PLUNKETT
(Senior Tutor, Maryvale Institute,
Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham),
15 Glen Eyre Road,
Southampton, Hampshire,
April 22.

From the Reverend Howard Taylor

Sir, Matthew Parris is expecting too much even from God if he thinks there ought to be a way for us to know — in any circumstance — what decision would be perfectly right. When we have conflicting loyalties there simply may be no way not to disappoint

someone in order to please another.

It is precisely because human life is often faced with these difficult decisions that there is opportunity for those who please or disappoint to be either jealous or generous in spirit. It is these very dilemmas that enable our humanity to deepen and grow to maturity, or alternatively to decay into selfishness.

Far more than the actual decisions we make, it is the attitude of the mind and heart, informed by prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount, that will be judged by God.

It is only in the context of eternity that purpose, and therefore value, and therefore morality can really make sense.

Yours sincerely,
HOWARD TAYLOR,
60 Southbrae Drive, Glasgow,
April 17.

From Mr Nicholas Angel

Sir, Matthew Parris does indeed have difficulty "ranking" moral obligations. He is moved to tears by the hopelessness of a Big Issue vendor he meets in London (column, April 10), but — with characteristic candour — is aware, in his next column, that his voting for weapons of mass destruction while an MP is incompatible with valuing the sanctity of human life.

But pity poor Mr Parris's plight. He must also be aware that, as a Tory MP for seven years in the 1980s, he shares a small part of the collective responsibility for the social crisis which has thrown up such unfortunate as the vendor he met, and who so moved him to a sense of futile despair. And yet, as one who remained a backbencher at the time of a massive Conservative majority, he too must know what it is to feel impotent in the face of immense,

monolithic forces, to lose one's individuality in the swamp of conformity.

Small wonder that the onset of his middle age has been accompanied by "moral, bafflement, and engulfing waves of vast, useless sympathy for people".

Yours sincerely,
NICK ANGEL,
26 The Grove, Radlett, Hertfordshire,
April 17.

From Mr Bill Weston

Sir, For his latest dig at Christianity, Matthew Parris seems to be looking for glossy answers.

Founded in the challenge of a unique human life, the Christian faith becomes real when it becomes personal: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths" (Proverbs iii, 5 and 6).

There are plenty of Christians willing and able to show how this proves true as a trustworthy dynamic for "life in this world... and daily decisions". Plenty of others too would agree that a faith which seeks the deepest and best foundations for personal integrity, however defined, is a better basis for real life and decisions than a corporate statement of priorities, even though it does not guarantee that people will agree.

Distancing oneself from this challenge puts one in danger of opting for the bogus, the substitute for thought, and the "top-out".

Yours faithfully,
BILL WESTON,
Over Croft,
8a Newland Road, Kirkheaton,
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire,
April 18.

Prison reform

From Mr Ron Baines

Sir, The signatories to the letter (April 10) calling for reform of the prison system do not mention prisoners' "rights" — still to be counted on the fingers of one hand after a hundred years.

Yours,
RON BAINES
(Chairman, Board of Visitors,
HMP Wormwood Scrubs, 1983-85),
11 The Manor House,
Portersley Hill Drive,
Camberley, Surrey.

Cue for a prayer

From Mr Joe Ruston

Sir, Given that both last for eternity, I have often thought that the only difference between heaven and hell must be the level of boredom. With this in mind I began to wonder if the churches had reached some kind of subliminal advertising deal with the TV companies this Saturday afternoon when three out of the four terrestrial television channels transmitted snooker. It was so excruciating a forecast of Hades that, for one, will be at matins on Sunday.

Yours faithfully,
JOE RUSTON,
1 Spencer Hill, Wimbledon, SW19,
April 22.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Sydney: inexpensive

Knight Frank & Rutley says that London is the only European location which has recorded an increase in prices in the past two

up to 30 per cent from their peak, another drop of 5 to 10 per cent is expected within the next six months," Mr Jawanda says.

MARY WILSON

Part of the new development of houses and flats in the grounds

Married but childless, Holloway decided to devote his wealth to worthy causes. Heading the appeal of the social reformer Lord Shaftesbury for philanthropists to found lunatic asylums for the lower middle classes, he bought 26 acres at Virginia Water in 1871 and held an architectural competition for the design of a sanatorium. This was won by a Yorkshire architect, William H. Crossland, who based his Gothic design on the Cloth Hall at Ypres in Belgium. It had 480

After standing empty and decaying for 14 years, it was bought last autumn by Octagon Development, an award-winning private property company started 15 years ago by two chartered quantity surveyors, Roger Wyatt and David James.

The sanatorium has now been renamed Crossland House. Already the roofs of the tower, the great hall and the lesser hall have been repaired, their brickwork cleaned and their vandalised stained-glass windows replaced (at a cost of £125,000 alone) under the architectural supervision of Gareth

Away from Crossland House, construction of the first 44 of the 122 houses is already under way, with 22 already sold, many of them well before completion. These new houses have also been designed by the Howell Smith Partnership.

Ten four-bedroomed houses are available for sale at prices from £260,000 to £320,000 through Barton Wyatt's sale office on site (01344 844622).

Property also appears on Page 15

NEWS

Plan to build super-secure jail

A new super-secure jail to hold all of Britain's most dangerous prisoners is being planned by the Government in the wake of recent escapes from Parkhurst and Whitemoor.

Up to 300 of the most dangerous and violent prisoners would be held in the jail, modelled on American "supermax" prisons, in a reversal of a 30-year-old policy of moving high-security inmates. Derek Lewis, who has had his contract as director-general of the prison service extended, is touring American jails with Michael Forsyth, the prisons minister. Pages 1, 17

Dancing star Ginger Rogers dies at 83

Ginger Rogers, whose dancing with Fred Astaire dazzled generations of filmgoers, died yesterday at her home in California. She was 83. She appeared in 73 films and won the 1940 Oscar for Best Actress. Pages 1, 19

Envoys summoned

Britain's leading ambassadors will have to convince a committee dominated by senior industrialists that they are worth a 50 per cent pay increase and up to £150,000 a year. Page 1

Surrender claim

Tony Blair taunted the Prime Minister with hoisting the white flag of surrender as the Tory Euro-rebels made a defiant return to the fold. Pages 1, 8, 17

Whiff of Europe

Meteorologists have blamed an easterly airstream for carrying an unpleasant stench from mainland Europe across much of England. Page 1

Doctor's award

A junior doctor who contemplated suicide because of depression caused by overwork has received compensation from a health authority. Page 2

Engagement sacking

A woman who joined a company run by fundamentalist Christians told an industrial tribunal that when she announced her engagement she was dismissed because the firm did not approve of married women working. Page 3

Family food link

Eating disorders in adolescents are often directly related to the state of family relationships, a lecturer in psychiatry has claimed. Page 4

Amateurs have a brush with celebrity

The works of more than 2,000 "Sunday painters" are to be celebrated in an exhibition in London organised by the Society of Amateur Artists. Among works featured are flower studies in watercolour by Dame Vera Lynn, an oil, *From the Garden*, by Dame Catherine Cookson, and a pencil sketch of a French peasant done by Sir Harry Secombe in 1949. Page 5

Pledge on classes

Independent school heads added to the furor over class sizes by announcing a drop in the number of pupils per member of staff and promising to maintain small groups, even at the cost of higher fees. Page 6

Oklahoma toll fear

The final death toll from the Oklahoma City bombing could exceed 200, the White House said as the prime suspect for the atrocity refused to cooperate with investigators. Page 12x

Supplies cut off

Tutsi soldiers cut off food and water to the last Hutu besieged in Kibeho camp in southwest Rwanda, where thousands were slaughtered. Page 12

Wooing the Right

France's two presidential camps have begun the delicate task of wooing the 4.5 million voters who chose Jean-Marie Le Pen in the first round. Page 13

Iraq rejects UN deal

Iraq's National Assembly rejected a UN plan that would have allowed the country to sell oil to raise money for food and other supplies. Page 11

Berlusconi blow

Silvio Berlusconi's leadership of the Italian Right was questioned by his allies as they reeled from a humiliating defeat in regional elections. Page 13



Rescue workers try to keep a stranded killer whale from drying out at Pegwell Bay, near Ramsgate, Kent. Report, page 1

BUSINESS

Economy: Booming National Lottery sales helped the service industries to raise British economic growth in the first quarter of this year by much more than the City expected. Page 23

Job: British business largely accepts that Labour will win the next election, the leader of the Institute of Directors said. Page 23

British Gas: Clare Spottiswoode, the gas industry regulator, rejected the suggestion that she should be given a say in setting executive pay at British Gas. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 5.6 points to close at 3214.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.2 to 84.1 after a rise from \$1.6075 to \$1.6140 and from DM2.2023 to DM2.2034. Page 26

SPORTS

Snooker: Stephen Hendry equalled the record of 18 consecutive world championship victories when he beat Ronnie O'Sullivan 13-8 in the quarter-finals at Sheffield. Page 44

Crickets: Hansie Cronje, South Africa's captain, scored 158 for Leicestershire in the Benson and Hedges Cup match against Lancashire at Old Trafford. Page 41

Football: The pitch for Germany's European championship match against Wales in Düsseldorf had to be re-laid after an American football match. Page 42

Rugby league: Martin Offiah signed a four-year contract with Wigan as the Australian Rugby League and the new Super Rugby struggle continued. Page 38

Singing prizes: Next week marks the centenary of Lorenz Hart, one of the greatest lyricists who ever lived, and every song-loving person should celebrate. Page 39

Private passions: Air force husbands and anxious wives grapple with relationships in a revival of Terence Rattigan's *Flare Path* at the Bristol Old Vic. Page 3

Animal art: The Tate Gallery's new exhibition of British sporting art pulls no punches, making us go where what it lacks in political correctness. Page 31

Flag waving: It is about time Britain had its own museum of national history, argues Kenneth Hudson, one of the people leading the campaign to win Lottery funding. Page 32



IN THE TIMES

FALL GUY

Geoff Brown on Brad Pitt in the new Hollywood blockbuster, *Legends of the Fall*

BODY AND MIND

Why aren't British doctors using blood tests that could save patients' lives?

Regular folk: It is hard to imagine a more emotionally and psychologically unprepared for such devastation than Oklahoma City, says Ben Macintyre. Page 15

Jackie O: "Even when she was alive she was more myth than real," says Professor Wayne Koestenbaum. Page 15

Secretary smart: Short-sleeved shirts and stretch pencil skirts are essential for summer. Page 14

David Kogan: The new marketing director of Reuters Television says that his immediate aim is to take on the broadcasters by producing more tailor-made services for clients. Page 37

Most of the Hutu and Tutsi lived together in peace before and want to do so again. But with powerful forces on both sides of Rwanda's ethnic divide committed to violence, there are limits to what outsiders can do to end the conflict.

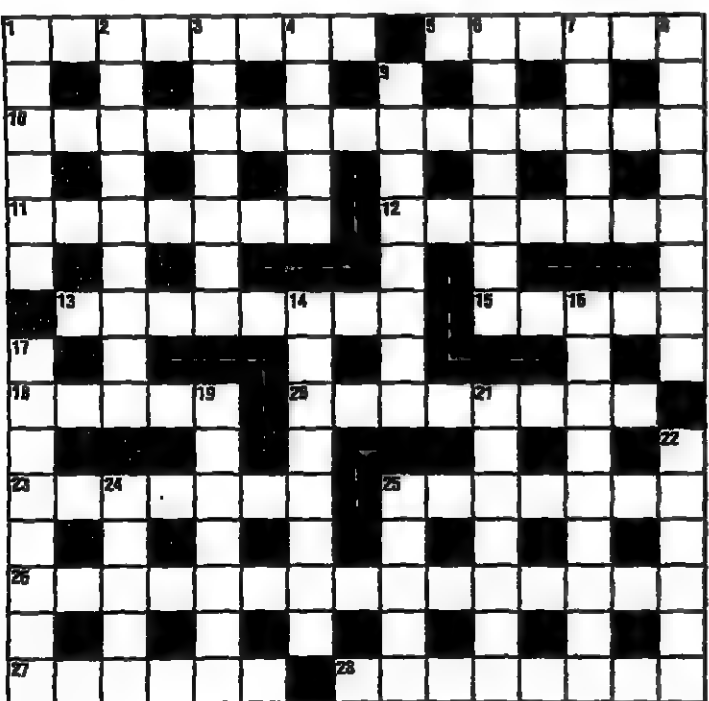
—The New York Times

Since the ethnic big European countries continue to be governed by conservatives, it is likely that France's Government will not be very different.

—The Washington Post

Viscount Tonygandy calls for a referendum on Europe. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,839



- ACROSS**
- Drop by and I will put an end to suspense (8)
 - When someone's speaking you interrupt — so do I — that's naughty and offensive (6)
 - Written like an old movie (2,5,3,5)
 - The sort of dome that's stuffed with religious belief (7)
 - Drawn 18, demanding overturn of draw (7)
 - Water above the average in quality (8)
 - French man and wife take part in recreation (5)
 - Sycorax, perhaps, carrying around Caliban early on (5)
 - Being distracted, reinfat with disorder (8)
 - By dubious means, he wins a billion 13 had invested (7)
 - He works in a diamond mine — he's in credit (7)
- DOWN**
- Features in letter to the king (6)
 - Thereafter fuel went under a different name (9)
 - One periodical that's dropped its centre picture (7)
 - Compare Liberal presidents with Nationalist leader (5)
 - Elderly lady always making the same bet (7)
 - Author who was bilingual? Yes (5)
 - Leave pond wet, shivering, after drastically curtailed swim (4,4)
 - A fly was quiet (3-5)
 - Give a pupil knowledge appropriate to everyday life (8)
 - Live near Edinburgh, moving daughter out to make room for old (9)
 - Last act features one-time wife of Beery, W. (4-4)
 - It's very hard to get round island, very hard (7)
 - Request partial translation of venture à terre (7)
 - Tire house (6)
 - Up centre to give advice about food (5)
 - Steps — purveyors of ladders know about their origins (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,838

DEERIS SPORADES
ERNBAYI
POACHER ACRONYM
RVOASRAO
EXALTATION AMEN
STWUCI
STOWAGE POUCEAT
ETAEOR
DOUGOUR ROSETTA
NRTERV
DODO CHAINSMOKE
OOSNHTEL
WHIPPET CHATELLE
UNUAGVGE
REGISTRY BEAREN

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by five per cent of the competitors at the 1995 York regional final of The Times Crossword Championship

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London 701
North/Surrey/Sussex 702
East of London 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire 705
Berkshire/Buckingham 706
Bedfordshire & Essex 707
North/South/Central 708
West Midlands & Shropshire 709
Bristol/Hereford & Worcester 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincoln & Humberside 713
Dorset & Dorset 714
Gloucestershire & Oxford 715
W & S Wales & Dorset 716
N & E England 717
N & W England 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
S & W Scotland 720
W & Central Scotland 721
E & S Scotland & Borders 722
N & W Scotland 723
Glasgow & E Highlands 724
N & W Scotland 725
Glasgow, Orkney & Shetland 726
N Ireland 727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadwatch information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadwatch 731
Area within M25 732
Cross/M25/Leamington/Birmingham 733
Kent/Sussex/Surrey/Hants 734
M25 London Orbital only 735

National traffic and roadwatch 736
Wales 737
West Country 738
North/South 739
East of London 740
North/South 741
North/South 742
North/South 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Plymouth Sands, Devon, 15C (59F); lowest day temp: Bournemouth, Dorset, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Poole, Dorset, 0.5in; highest sunshine: Isles of Scilly, 12.5h.

FORECAST

General: much of England and Wales will start rather cloudy but apart from some showers in the south and east it should be mostly dry, and many places will become brighter.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly dry, but in the northeast of Scotland a few showers are likely, wintry on the hills.

It will be generally cooler than recently with a brisk northeast breeze.

London, SE, Central S, SW England, Channel Isles: sunny spells developing, scattered thundery showers. Winds northeast, moderate, locally fresh. Max 17C (63F).

E Anglia, E England: rather cloudy, becoming brighter for a time, risk of showers later. Winds north, moderate, locally fresh. Max 15C (59F) in most places; max 10C (50F) on the coast.

Midlands, Central N England, S

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
SE	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Central S	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
SW	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Channel Isles	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
E Anglia	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
E England	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Midlands	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Central N	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
S	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15

WELSH

Wales: mainly dry, rather cloudy at first, sunny or clear spells later. Winds, northeast, moderate. Max 15C (59F).

N Wales, NW England, Lakes, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: dry with clear or sunny spells. Winds, northeast moderate or fresh. Max 13C (55F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: rather cloudy with some bright or sunny intervals. Winds, northeast, fresh. Max 12C (54F); cooler on coasts.

Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: sunny or clear spells and showers, wintry on hills. Winds northeast, fresh, locally strong. Max 7C (45F).

Outlook: a little rain in the far southwest, otherwise mostly dry with clear or sunny spells. Rather cool with a risk of ground frost in places.

CHANGES TO THE CHART BELOW FROM NOON: LOW A will gradually fill but low I will move slowly northwards with little change in central pressure



TODAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
SE	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Central S	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
SW	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Channel Isles	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
E Anglia	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
E England	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Midlands	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Central N	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
S	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15

TODAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
SE	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Central S	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
SW	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Channel Isles	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
E Anglia	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
E England	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Midlands	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Central N	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
S	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15

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07/11/2015

ARTS 30-32

The case for a museum of national history

MEDIA 37

David Kogan, at 37, the new boss at Reuters

SPORT 38-44

The last chance to enter your Fantasy First XI

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 42, 43

THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 26 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

IoD acknowledges Labour will win next election

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITISH business largely accepts Labour will win the next election, the leader of the free-market Institute of Directors says today. This acknowledgement by the IoD that the Conservatives will be defeated at the next general election is the most open acceptance by British business of the likelihood of a change of government.

The IoD, as a clear indication of industry's acceptance of the potency of the party's election message under Tony Blair, its leader, especially since the IoD has traditionally been associated with the Conservatives, is increasingly allied with the Euro-sceptic views of Michael Portillo, Employment Secretary, and others on the Tory benches.

Labour will form the next government. That has to be so. Many businessmen have concluded they will have to live with a Labour administration," he said. While the IoD leader makes clear he believes personally the outcome of the election is "far from certain", he said: "Nevertheless, business has to plan over a long time scale, and it has to prepare for the possibility of a Labour government. So does the IoD. And that's precisely what we are doing. It's important to put what we are doing across to Labour and Conservatives."

Despite his acknowledgment that business largely accepts Labour will win, Mr Melville-Ross strongly maintained a future Labour government would have a damaging impact on Britain's economy. He added: "It is our responsibility to recognise that there may be a Labour administration. We have to say that now." His statements may prove embarrassing for the senior Conservative figures.

At its conference today, the IoD will stress the importance of winning in world markets — the theme of the convention — which is likely to be seen as further scepticism about an overdependence by the UK on Europe. Speakers include Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, Lord Young, chairman of Cable and Wireless and the Institute's president, Peter Sutherland, the Director-General of the World Trade Organisation, and business leaders, including John Towers, Rover's chief executive, and Sir Colin Marshall, British Airways chairman.

Balance struck, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET TRENDS		
FT-SE 100	3214.9	(+5.8)
FT-SE 100 All share	4349.5	(+3.6)
Nikkei	16910.54	(+108.40)
New York	4303.29	(+0.69)
Dow Jones	812.15	(-0.74)
S&P Composite		
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	7 3/4%	(7 3/4%)
Yield		
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)
Libor long call	103 1/2	(104 1/2)
Future (Libor)		
STERLING		
New York	1.9137	(1.8048)
London	1.5108	(1.5015)
DM	2.2061	(2.2071)
FF	1.7098	(1.7070)
Sfr	1.5291	(1.5269)
Yen	152.59	(152.30)
E index	84.1	(84.2)
DOLLAR		
London	1.3880	(1.3780)
FF	4.8210	(4.8225)
Sfr	1.1310	(1.1400)
Yen	81.86	(83.10)
E index	86.8	(87.8)
Tokyo close Yen	85.08	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brut 15-day (A)	\$18.20	(\$18.05)
SOLD		
London close	\$388.85	(\$391.25)
* denotes midday trading price		

City sees rate increase as inevitable

By Colin Mearns, World Trade Correspondent

ROBUST growth in services, helped by the booming National Lottery, led to far stronger economic expansion than expected in the first quarter, making the decision to raise interest rates increasingly likely next week.

The City had been expecting the preliminary estimate of the gross domestic product to confirm a marked slowdown. Instead, the figures, published yesterday, showed a first-quarter GDP rise of 0.8 per cent, after seasonal adjustment, compared with the previous quarter's 0.1 per cent.

The City had been expecting the preliminary estimate of the gross domestic product to confirm a marked slowdown. Instead, the figures, published yesterday, showed a first-quarter GDP rise of 0.8 per cent, after seasonal adjustment, compared with the previous quarter's 0.1 per cent.

decision to make a half-point rate increase is a near certainty on May 5, when Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, have their next monetary policy meeting.

The authorities are currently confronted with an economy that has sustained the momentum it built up last year, despite monetary tightening, and the risk that the weaker pound is sucking in inflation.

The service sector, which accounts for 63 per cent of overall output, grew 1 per cent in the first quarter, its strongest since the second quarter of last year, with distribution, hotels and catering accounting for a rise of 0.8 per cent, reflecting consumer enthusiasm for entertainment and travel in the absence of a revival in the housing market and high-street spending.

Growth seen in the first quarter is well above the 2.25 per cent annual rate regarded as sustainable in the long term. Mr George has in the past used strong GDP growth as the main justification for raising interest rates.

Base rates have been increased three times in the past eight months to keep control of inflation. The underlying rate is currently at an annual 2.8 per cent, comfortably below the official ceiling of 4 per cent.

Britain's trade deficit with countries outside the European Union narrowed to £263 million last month from a revised shortfall of £371 million in February, with exports and imports showing a downward trend in volume terms.



Confident note: Richard Holland, chief executive of instrument maker Boosey & Hawkes, revealed a 16 per cent rise in 1994 pre-tax profits to £5.1 million. The total dividend for the year rises to 5.9p from 5p out of earnings up 10 per cent to 17p.

Scotland resists nuclear fission

SCOTTISH NUCLEAR has defied its owner, the Government, by rushing forward a set of sparkling financial figures in a bid to avoid being subsumed within the less profitable but larger English generator Nuclear Electric.

The decision whether to merge the two companies, seen in the City as the only way of preparing Nuclear Electric for a stock market flotation, is due to be taken at a meeting of the Cabinet tomorrow.

The plan has aroused a storm of protest among Scottish industry leaders, trade unions and politicians, including the handful of remaining Tory MPs, even though it has been said that Scottish Nuclear may retain an office north of the border.

The company's figures for 1994-95 show increased turnover, output and productivity. Net profits more than doubled from £72 million to £150 million last year.

More significantly, the company is the first nuclear generator to show a profit even without the subsidy paid to the industry from public funds to meet the cost of decommissioning outlived Magnox plant.

Robin Jeffrey, chief executive, said: "Bundling the two companies together like this can only result in job losses in Scotland. We wanted to lay before the public just how successful the results were in this year."

The figures were brought forward, said Mr Jeffrey, even though there had been "no encouragement" from the ultimate owner, the Scottish Office, to do so. They were initially due in June, he added. "The nails would have been in the coffin by then."

Advances of Abbey rejected by N&P

By Robert Miller and Patricia Trehan

NATIONAL & Provincial, the building society at the centre of a bid by Abbey National, has snubbed the former building society turned bank.

On Monday, the Abbey confirmed that it would bid for N&P, with about 1.7 million members in line to receive an average shares bonus worth about £600 each.

In a statement to be delivered at N&P annual meeting in Bradford today, Lord Shuttleworth, chairman, will tell members that the society will "not be bounced into any course of action by the activities of a third party."

Alastair Lyons, chief executive of N&P, Britain's ninth-largest building society, said: "I agreed to meet Peter Birch, the chief executive of Abbey National, early in May. That meeting was arranged some two weeks ago. I very much hope that we can now sit down in private and discuss the Abbey proposal rather than carrying on the debate across the pages of the newspapers."

Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, rejected allegations that his bank's approach to the directors of N&P was hostile.

He said: "In terms of corporate governance, the boards of directors of the building society has a responsibility to its owners, their members, to at least find out what Abbey National is proposing."

Abbey had said that it had indicated to the N&P management that it expected to be able to offer a substantial premium to net asset value.

G7 still divided on how best to calm currencies

FROM LAST BUSINESS IN WASHINGTON

THE group of seven industrial nations yesterday failed to agree an initiative to stabilise the currency markets, the United States standing firm against calls from Japan and Germany to support the dollar.

There was no widespread support at the G7 meeting for any speculation to influence the rate of the dollar, such as the Plaza and Louvre accords of the 1980s. Such direct intervention in the currency markets was opposed by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, who repeated his preference for sound economic policies — zero inflation and cutting government borrowing — would restore market confidence.

Robert Sweeney, US Treasury Secretary, said, however, that he is more interested in discussing better systems and procedures to prevent a recurrence of any Mexico-style financial crisis. On the eve of the meeting, he said that there was so much agreement on the com-

modity markets that he was "not of a pizary and is here and now". It had always been unlikely that co-ordinated action on currencies could be agreed.

Germany and Japan, which have both cut interest rates recently, argued that the onus was on the US to support the dollar by raising its own rates and, in the longer term, by cutting its budget deficit.

Mr Ruffin says, however, that he is happy with economic development in the US and that the economy is heading for a soft landing, with growth gradually slowing and inflation remaining at low levels. His remarks, taken as a sign that the US would not raise rates, sent Wall Street to another record high on Monday.

A large part of the meeting was spent discussing what went wrong in Mexico. There was general support for the view that there should be better surveillance by the IMF.

Robert Harris, page 27

Gas watchdog rejects pay-setting role

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor



Spottiswoode: "retrograde"

CLARE SPOTTISWOODE, the regulator of the gas industry, yesterday rejected the suggestion that she should have a say in setting executive pay in British Gas.

Accepting that the company's customer service standards had fallen, the Director-General of Gas Supply insisted that such a role on pay would be a "retrograde" step.

In the controversy over boardroom pay — especially in privatised utilities — which was begun by a 75 per cent pay increase for Cedric Brown, the British Gas chief executive, Labour is proposing that the utility regulators should curb excessive pay rises.

However, Ms Spottiswoode, giving evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Employment, said: "It would be a

retrograde step to get the regulators involved in setting pay. I would become a prices and incomes board for British Gas. But its competitors would not face that."

Although she accepted that a regulatory role in pay-setting would be a matter for Parliament, Ms Spottiswoode said that such a role would bring utility regulators into the political system, "which would change the whole nature of regulation and its independence."

The Commons committee examining the Government's Bill to increase competition in the gas industry yesterday rejected a pay-setting role for the regulator.

In evidence to the employment committee, Ms Spottiswoode and Ofgas said that such a move would infringe the market

disciplines that utilities were supposed to work under after privatisation. Regulators were not well placed to judge the merits of individual board members, and controlling executive salaries would give them "undue influence" over a privatised company's affairs without being responsible to companies' shareholders.

However, Ms Spottiswoode disclosed that Ofgas would be examining executive pay in its current five-yearly study of British Gas's costs, rather than its prices.

Although she accepted that consumer complaints about British Gas had risen, she said that it was important for consumers that the company had the best management available, and this meant offering "competitive" pay.

Pennington, page 25

Land of the Midnight Sun

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City reads rate rise into CBI prices study

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

EXPECTATIONS of a further rise in interest rates continued to grow yesterday after the Confederation of British Industry's latest industrial trends survey showed price rises running at their highest level for five years. At the same time, output growth slowed and exports were at a record high.

The CBI and external economists believe that the various results of the quarterly trends survey for April were difficult to interpret in policy terms. City analysts, however, maintained that the growth and inflationary pressures indicated by the survey were in line with expectations that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will agree a further rate rise at their meeting next week.

Minutes of previous monthly meetings suggest that evidence from the CBI on price and other inflationary pressures has been instrumental in rate rise decisions.

The Treasury said that the survey's findings on export performance and optimism were "particularly encouraging". Even on prices there were signs of pressures easing in the future, it added.

Howard Davies, Director-General of the CBI, who will become Mr George's deputy at the Bank in the autumn, stressed that his remarks on monetary policy reflected the CBI's view, saying that "interest rates should remain where they are for the time being, although we still expect a further rise this year before rates peak".

However, he accepted that this interest rate judgment was "finely balanced", and added that if sterling was to fall further and endanger the Government's inflation target, then the CBI would expect the authorities to react.

Overall, Mr Davies said: "Manufactured exports continue to be the engine pulling the recovery forward, despite

a slowdown in the pace of output growth over the past few months. It is particularly encouraging to see the improvement in investment intentions". He acknowledged that the figures had been "erratic" over recent surveys.

The main findings of the survey of 1,200 companies, accounting for half the UK's manufactured exports, included:

□ Prices: the balance of companies reporting a rise in domestic prices — those recording a rise set against those registering a fall — jumped from 10 to 29 per cent, the highest level since April 1990. While forward expectations are lower, at 18 per cent, unit costs were up and set to rise further, leading analysts to see inflationary pressures still working through.

□ Exports: with the export balance up from 24 to 34 per cent, export growth was at an 18-year high, though exports are likely to rise less quickly over the next four months.

□ Output: domestically, the volume of new orders grew steadily, though the growth in overall output slowed from 33 to 26 per cent, as the CBI had expected. CBI analysts said that their own figures fitted "uneasily" with the Government's data, which they expected to be revised.

□ Investment: companies' investment intentions rose from a balance of 7 to 13 per cent of firms reporting increases. But capacity utilisation rose, with the number of companies working below capacity falling from 49 to 42 per cent — the lowest since July 1989.

□ Jobs: In spite of expectations of a stabilisation in jobs, an estimated 9,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in the first three months — contrary to government figures.

□ Confidence: business confidence overall rose for the tenth successive survey, though the number of companies feeling optimistic dropped from a balance of 17 to 13 per cent.



McCarthy & Stone, the sheltered housing builder, said that it hoped to resume dividend payments this year as it unveiled plans to increase the number of homes sold to 1,500 a year from a current 900. John McCarthy, chairman, left, with Matthew Thorne, finance director, reported a return to profit in the half-year to February 28, with pre-tax earnings of £13 million against

losses of £400,000 last time. Earnings per share were 0.3p, compared with losses of 0.6p. There is again no interim dividend. The shares rose 3p to 59p.

Tempos, page 26

Academics attack audit proposals

A GROUP of 49 accounting academics is calling for sweeping reforms to audits of public companies. The academics, from 30 universities, have signed a common response to *The Audit Agenda*, an Auditing Practices Board discussion document (Graham Seargeant writes).

They argue that the board's proposals do not go far enough, and call for a body independent of the profession to regulate all aspects of auditing and a ban on auditors of ples selling non-audit services to their audit clients.

The 49 also say that auditors should have more responsibility to third parties, with no statutory limitation of their legal liability. From Sika, of the University of East London, a campaigner for reform, said the response was a further vote of no confidence in the board by accounting academics.

Pennington, page 25

Pay deals shadow inflation increase

By Our Industrial Editor

PAY deals in the private sector are following inflation upwards, new wage settlement evidence suggests today.

The Government's own figures, supported by employers' data, suggest continuing stability in average earnings growth. But independent pay analysts are consistently maintaining that wage settlements are continuing to rise.

Looking at a snapshot of pay settlements in April, the second busiest month for wage deals after January, incomes Data Services, the pay analysis company, says that agreements are now running at a higher settlement level than they were at the start of the year. Though IDS accepts that its survey is based on a relatively small number of April settlements, it says: "The early signs of a rise in settlement levels compared with January provide further confirmation of a rising trend to which we have been drawing attention for some time."

Examining a total of 43 private sector deals so far registered, IDS says that more than six in ten are worth 3-3.9 per cent, with a further third worth 4 per cent or more.

Many pay deals in January were determined against headline inflation running at under 3 per cent, but with retail price inflation moving beyond that, IDS says that private sector pay deals are now beginning to reflect the jump in inflation.

Recent deals charted by IDS include 5.5 per cent in the first part of a two-year deal at PowerGen, 5 per cent at LDV, 4 per cent at Reuters, 3.9 per cent for manual workers at United Distillers, 3.5 per cent at Perkins Engines, 4.15 per cent at Kellogg, and merit rises averaging 7 per cent at Ecological Insurance.

The study shows a growing divergence between private and public sector pay, with pay awards in the public sector "significantly lower".

ICI staff want more of the cake

THOUSANDS of employees of ICI, the chemicals company, will today demand "substantial" pay rises to reflect record profits that triggered bumper bonus payments for executive directors (Martin Barrow writes).

MSF, the white-collar union that represents 10,000 ICI staff, will also demand improved conditions, including ten days' paternity leave and 15 days' annual family leave.

The demand comes after an 84 per cent rise in ICI's taxable profits, to £54 million, in 1994, for which directors received bonuses totalling 40 per cent of pay. Sir Ronald Hampel, chief executive, who becomes chairman tomorrow, saw his pay jump by 27 per cent to £607,000 a year.

Paul Talbot, the union's national officer, said: "ICI have had a record year. The bosses have done very well for themselves and now the staff deserve their share." MSF members working for ICI received a 3 per cent pay rise last year.

NatWest defends top salary policy

THE chairman of NatWest's executive pay committee has defended the increases in remuneration received by the bank's executive directors last year, saying they were an adequate reflection of performance. Sir John Benham, the non-executive director who heads the NatWest remuneration committee, said the committee's policy is "to provide a total remuneration package which is competitive and reflects the performance of directors in delivering value for shareholders." The pay of Derek Wanless, the chief executive, rose by 15 per cent last year to £499,000 including a £15,000 bonus.

Lord Alexander, chairman of NatWest, told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday that the bank does not "seek to take a leading position by paying salaries at the top end of industry rates. However, we do recognise that to attract and retain the level of talent required to lead a global organisation such as NatWest we must pay competitively." He told shareholders that the bank anticipates only modest lending growth in the UK this year, coupled with intensified competition. In response to a question from a shareholder on the legal action against the bank by London Underground over a missing cheque for £500,000, he said the bank did not accept that it was at fault.

Tempos, page 26

Premium bonds option

PREMIUM BOND prizewinners will be able to opt to have their winnings automatically reinvested from the May draw onwards, National Savings announced yesterday. Under the present system, winners are paid by warrant, which can be paid into a bank or building society account like a cheque. The warrants can be sent back to National Savings, but are subject to a month's qualifying period before being eligible for prize draws. From May, winners will be sent a mandate to authorise National Savings to reinvest the money.

Huntleigh provision

HUNTLEIGH TECHNOLOGY, the medical products group, is providing £3.1 million against a proposed settlement of a claim by US authorities against an American subsidiary, Huntleigh, which develops a device for the treatment of aortic aneurysms. The settlement will be spread over seven years. The charge depressed 1994 profits, which were £6.66 million, against £5.86 million in 1993, and reduced earnings per share to 11.45p (7.31p). A final 3.25p lift the dividend to 6p (4.5p).

RJR Nabisco declines

FALLING cigarette sales across the world hit profits at RJR Nabisco, with first-quarter earnings per share dropping to 51 cents from 60 cents, although net income rose slightly to \$198 million from \$195 million, because of calculations involving a preferred share issue. RJR Nabisco said the strong first-quarter performance by its food business was offset by sharply reduced tobacco shipments. Net sales for worldwide tobacco operations were \$1.7 billion, down 9 per cent from a year ago. International tobacco sales declined 4 per cent to \$701 million.

Marine Midland up 25%

MARINE MIDLAND, the US banking operation of HSBC Holdings, lifted net profits 25 per cent in the first quarter of the year to \$66 million. The figures include results from Concord Leasing, which merged into Marine on January 1. HSBC said Marine Midland's return on equity rose to 38.23 per cent, compared with 15.97 per cent in last year's first quarter. The increase in profits was helped by an improvement in net interest income, which rose to \$214.4 million from \$187 million. Operating expenses fell to \$165.8 million from \$189.8 million.

Huge surge for Hoechst

HOECHST, the first of Germany's big three chemicals groups to announce first-quarter figures, reported a 94 per cent surge in pre-tax profit to DM964 million and forecast a higher full-year profit in 1995, despite the negative impact of the stronger mark on sales. Last year it boosted pre-tax profits by 80 per cent to DM22.2 billion. Hoechst, which is buying Marion Merrell Dow, the US pharmaceutical group, for \$7.1 billion, is engaged in a battle with Britain's Inland Revenue over what it calls discriminatory tax demands.

Disney roars ahead

FILM and video success of *The Lion King* and higher merchandise sales and attendance at Disneyland and Disneyworld lifted Disney's second-quarter profits 27 per cent. Disney made \$316 million, or 60 cents a share, from January to March (\$248 million, 45 cents a share) on sales up 28 per cent at \$2.9 billion. Earnings would have been \$33 million higher but for continued losses at Disneyland Paris. Half-year earnings were \$798 million, or \$1.51 per share, (\$617 million, or \$1.13 a share) on \$6.22 billion sales (\$5 billion).

Ramco revenue hopes

RAMCO, the oil services group, is hoping for revenues as early as the end of 1996 from its oil interests in Azerbaijan. Ramco, which made profits of £1.6 million (£200,000) last year from servicing pipelines, has a 2 per cent stake in a consortium led by BP and Statoil which has secured a production-sharing contract to develop the Chirag and Gunashli oil fields in the Caspian Sea. Ramco is now debt-free and group earnings per share rose to 5.56p from 0.6p allowing a doubling of the dividend to 1p a share.

Nine in a row for S&U

S&U, the collected credit trading company, reported increased profits for the ninth consecutive year, coupled with decreased borrowings for the 12 months to January 31. Pre-tax profits were £6.05 million, up from £5.62 million. Earnings per share rose 2.3p, to 33.03p. Directors recommend a final dividend of 9.5p per ordinary share (8.9p), raising the yearly total to 12.5p (10.45p). The payout is due on July 1. Gearing was 26.8 per cent, down from the previous 36.8 per cent. The shares fell 17p, to 298p.



Independent Newspapers Around the World

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

- Ireland**
 - Ireland's largest newspaper publishing group.
 - Increased contribution from publishing operations.
 - Share of national newspapers' advertising revenue increased.
 - Aggregate cable and MDS customer base increased 11% to 114,400 (Princes Holdings — 50% owned).
- Australia**
 - Australian Provincial Newspapers pre-tax profit increases 20% to A\$34.0 million (25% indirect holding).
 - Purchase of Wego Limited in December 1994. Purchase of Gold 104FM subsequent to year end and purchase of Australian Radio Network radio companies, making APN the largest radio network in Australia.
 - Purchase of 26% stake in Cody Outdoor Advertising in February 1995, the leading superstore advertising company.
- South Africa**
 - Purchase of 34.98% interest in Argus Newspapers, the largest newspaper group in South Africa. This was increased to 58.23% in March 1995.
- United Kingdom**
 - Purchase of 28.76% interest in Newspaper Publishing PLC — publisher of *The Independent* and *The Independent on Sunday*. In March 1995, arrangements were agreed in principle for Independent to hold a 43% shareholding in Newspaper Publishing.
 - Purchase of 75.1% interest in Capital Newspapers Ltd to create London's largest paid-for regional newspaper group.
 - Establishment of Sporting Publications Division.
 - Buspak UK (50% owned) is now the largest bus transit advertising company.
 - Improved trading at *Commuter* Publishing Partnership.
- France**
 - Increased trading for Sirocco, ranked number two in its outdoor advertising market.
 - Expansion of sales of street furniture and municipal services.
- Portugal**
 - Purchase of 7.9% strategic stake in Jornalgeste SGPS, the largest newspaper publishing group in Portugal.

	1994	1993	
	IRE000	IRE000	
Operating Profit	41,520	29,191	+42%
Profit before Taxation	37,736	26,479	+43%
Earnings per Share*	20.0p	18.0p	+11%
Dividends per Share*	8.5p	7.3p	+16%
Shareholders' Funds	246,858	185,563	+33%
*Adjusted for Bonus Issue.			

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS, PLC

Full financial statements for the year ended 30 December 1994 will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and carry an unqualified Audit Report. Copies of the Report may be obtained from The Secretary, Independent Newspapers, PLC, 1-2 Upper Hatch Street, Dublin 2.

Dr A.J.F. O'Reilly, Chairman

Call for national pension scheme

By Robert Miller

A DRIVE to introduce a new National Pension Scheme, which would be compulsory for people without a company or occupational pension, will be launched later this week by Tom Ross, the new chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, whose members manage some £300 billion of assets. Mr Ross will suggest that up to 10 per cent of a person's pre-tax salary could be paid into the national pension.

Mr Ross, who succeeds Ron Amy as chairman of the NAPP, will also use his inaugural speech at the association's two-day annual conference, which opens in Birmingham tomorrow, to call on the Government to simplify the present tax regime to encourage more employers to provide company pension schemes. The number of people covered by such pensions has declined to about 48 per cent of the working population.

The gradual erosion of the employers' role in providing a pension as an integral part of a salary package has thrown an even greater burden on the present pay-as-you-earn state pension. Also, there are fewer people in work and more people in retirement.

Mr Ross said: "We don't think that Seps (State Earnings Related Pension Scheme) is a business that the Government should be in. If the tax treatment of company pension schemes and private sector plans were simplified and brought more into line with each other, it would make pensions for all an easier concept to promote."

The immediate priority for Mr Ross and Dr Ann Robinson, the new director-general of the NAPP, is the Pensions Bill. They will be putting forward amendments, including a clause insisting that pension fund assets are held by independent custodians.



Robinson: amendments

Internet disappoints business

By Eric Reguly

THE Internet, the worldwide network of computers and the much-hyped forerunner to the information superhighway, has largely been a flop with business users, a survey commissioned by PhoneLink, an electronic information services company, concludes.

The survey of more than 200 business executives and their personal assistants, conducted by Benchmark Research, found that only 27 per cent of respondents considered the Internet a business advantage, yet most thought it had potential to be a valuable source of information.

"The Internet could be facing the possibility of a back-

lash due to a combination of unfulfilled expectations and rising frustration," the report said. "There is an obvious imbalance between the perceived potential of the Internet and the reality, which will need addressing if the Internet is ever to serve as a business information tool."

Those who are dissatisfied with the Internet, which is said to have about 30 million users around the world, complain that its response time is too slow and that it is difficult to navigate. The report said: "Overzealous marketing and enthusiastic press coverage has also contributed to the dissatisfaction of those using

the Internet, by building up its promise, when the reality is that it has a long way to go before it delivers something akin to the eagerly-awaited information superhighway."

Not surprisingly, offices that are connected to the Internet use it most for sending electronic messages. PhoneLink, a USM-listed company, has launched a new version of its Tel-Me software that was designed to provide businesses with quick and easy access to information banks. Tel-Me, which provides e-mail and access to the Internet, includes an electronic phone directory and "look and book" travel services.

	Bank	Bank
	Share	Share
Australia	2.30	2.15
Austria	18.28	18.08
Belgium	40.50	44.20
Canada	2.20	2.14
Cyprus	0.745	0.880
Danmark	9.31	8.51
Denmark	7.65	7.78
France	8.28	7.80
Germany	2.37	2.18
Greece	37.05	32.10
Hong Kong	13.94	12.04
Ireland	1.04	0.98
Israel	5.88	5.62
Italy	282.00	267.00
Japan	141.00	132.00
Netherlands	2.85	2.50
Norway	12.54	12.74
Portugal	20.50	22.50
Spain	204.50	191.50
Sweden	12.25	11.75
Switzerland	1.97	1.79
Turkey	1.07	0.97
USA	1.57	1.57

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to "treasury" cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Sales fi
Sears
altering



Magazines help
Shares over £1

Mixed pictur

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 26 1995

□ Finding a fair value for building societies □ The potential casualties in nuclear sell-off □ Accounting for cross-selling

Twisting the Lyons tail

□ ABBEY National's shock tactics to propel National & Provincial into a takeover should certainly live up to its annual meeting today. Traditionally, society agnos are as exciting as a trial by ordeal. Today, the glint of greed will shine in many N&P members' eyes as they relish the prospect of a £600 million handout from Abbey for serving up their society ready garnished.

Abbey's move, however, will do more than provide an entertaining day out for N&P's savers. The way it has launched a quasi-hostile offer for N&P should at least open up a debate, even an auction, to determine the true value of a building society on the open market.

Until now, members have had no real say in the future of their society. Deals, such as Abbey National's mutualisation, Cheltenham & Gloucester's acquisition by Lloyds and the Halifax/Leeds merger, have been presented on a take it or leave it basis. Most qualifying members have been only too happy to nod through such proposals and take the cash or shares in the naive belief that they are getting something for nothing, although at least the recent succession of

deals has shown them that their votes have value.

Until now, members have been prepared to sell their equity in the societies at a knockdown price. By the time Lloyds completes its purchase of the C&G, it will be paying less than 1.7 times book value for the premier building society in the industry. Quoted commercial banks, by contrast, regularly change hands for three times book value. If Abbey is indeed offering £1.1 billion for N&P as suggested in the City, it is only offering 4.5 times book value, even less adequate than Lloyds' knockdown bid for the C&G.

Abbey, in City terms, put N&P in play. As a result, its chief executive, can hardly turn down the offer now without presenting a strong alternative. This may lead to the attractive possibility that N&P's members will be presented with a range of proposals and decide for themselves which offers the best value.

The simplest response that Mr

Lyons could make is to prepare N&P for flotation. Pundits claim the society is too small to float. But companies worth £50 million or less find their way on to the stock market every month, so the N&P, worth more than £1 billion, should be able to. The open market would provide a far more efficient means of valuing N&P than the aspirations of its management.

Scottish unclear

□ ON A sliding scale of stupidities, merging Scottish Nuclear with Nuclear Electric to make the latter saleable ranks somewhere behind the poll tax and identity cards, so it must have rather less chance than either of becoming official government policy. But it is, nonetheless, a pretty daft idea.

Scottish Nuclear's frantic bid to escape such a fate by slipping



its figures out early is an understandable one, although whether it will cut much ice in Westminster is another matter. There are, count them, not quite enough Conservative MPs left north of Hadrian's Wall to make up a football team, and if the Government feels it can only win the next election by flogging off the nuclear industry to fund tax cuts, then blowing the final whistle on some or all of them looks like an acceptable cost.

Scottish Nuclear's point is that it has forced costs down and output up to a point where the

company is indistinguishable from a profit-making business. This is likely to be in sharp contrast to Nuclear Electric's own numbers which are, significantly, not being moved forward from their June due date. While the latter's generating cost per kw/hr is not going to be much higher than Scottish Nuclear's achieved 2.2p, that company is still a long way short of making it into the black without the comfort of the nuclear levy.

There are currently eight nuclear stations in the British Isles that are profitable, actually or potentially. The Scots have two AGRs, the English five more plus the Sizewell B PWR. The arithmetic, at least coming from the industry regulator, had always suggested shifting two of the English stations to the Scots and privatising the two companies as roughly equal concerns. The latest signal from Whitehall, therefore, is a clear reversal of this. A merged in-

dustry is said to worth up to £3 billion; but with the Recs, ex the National Grid, selling on a 7 per cent-plus yield, the privatisation would have to be on an even chunkier number to be acceptable to the City, which would seem to force the price down by an unacceptable amount.

Breaking the audit bonds

□ THE Auditing Practices Board has made, or contemplated, many reforms to make auditors more clearly independent and their vetting of accounts more effective. Some have long been wanted by senior auditors, others have been conceded to mollify critics. Individual auditors will change regularly to avoid becoming too cosy with their clients and rotation of audit firms would not cause violent ructions. But there has always been one sticking point. Account-

tancy firms are desperate to retain their right to sell non-audit business to audit clients.

There are good practical arguments for keeping this dual role. Auditors are best placed to spot deficiencies that they can remedy. A company may be paying more tax than its needs, have weaknesses in management, structure, or pay arrangements. And it may be more economic for the auditor's firm to provide non-audit services because part of the work is already done.

These arguments are certainly strong enough to maintain the practice for unlisted companies. So long as the nexus exists, however, auditors will find it hard to convince the public that they are truly independent and report to shareholders rather than to their real customer, the client's finance director.

Occasional, unprovable, complaints that some big accountancy firms see audit as a loss leader to gain other business are merely a symptom of this bigger issue. So is the growing army of academics adding their names to those of long-standing strident critics. The case for specialised audit of big quoted companies is gaining more ground by the day.

Sales figures at Sears point to faltering recovery

By SARAH BAGNALL

SEARS, one of Britain's biggest retailers and a barometer of health in the high street, yesterday confirmed fears that recovery in consumer spending is faltering.

The group, which comprises Selfridges, department store, Freemans' mail order, and high street chains such as Warehouse, Miss Selfridge, Dolcis, and Saks, revealed that trading in the first 11 weeks of the current year had been challenging.

Liam Strong, chief executive, said: "The 'feel-good' factor certainly hasn't arrived in the high street. Since the beginning of the year consum-

er behaviour has been pretty dull."

Underlying sales in the first 11 weeks of the year rose 4.5 per cent — revealing a declining sales trend since mid-1994. In the third quarter of last year, Sears reported sales growth of about 14 per cent, dropping to about 8 per cent in the last quarter.

"Consumers are being very discerning and very modest about what they spend," said Mr Strong. Since the start of the year, womenswear — comprising Richards, Miss Selfridge, Wallis and Warehouse — and the Olympia High Street chain have had disap-

pointing performances. Business stock had built up after increased purchasing on last autumn's strong sales.

Mr Strong's cautious statement came as he unveiled an 11.2 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £153.8 million in the year to January 31. The advance, in line with market expectations, was achieved on the back of a 6.8 per cent rise in sales from continuing operations to £2.1 billion.

Profits growth was fuelled by new product ranges and store formats. In 1994 Sears opened 126 outlets, closed 172 and revamped a further 385 shops. It plans to open about 150 stores and refurbish a further 400 this year.

Footwear, the main profit contributor, lifted profits 15.8 per cent to £38.1 million on sales 9 per cent ahead at £618.1 million. The new formats — Shoe Express, the self-service shoe store, and Shoe City, the out of town stores — performed particularly well. The benefits of the upgrade at Selfridges, the department store, began to feed through, helping to lift profits 35 per cent to £28.4 million.

Childrenswear profits slipped, though there was a marked improvement in the second half. The Freemans mail order business improved profits while high street fashion edged ahead. Womenswear sparked with profits up 77.5 per cent at £22.9 million.

The final dividend rises from 2.68p to 2.9p, making a total of 3.95p, up 7.3 per cent from last time. The dividend, due June 30, is being paid out of pre-exceptional earnings of 6.5p a share (5.6p).

Times, page 26



Liam Strong, left, with David Deffen, finance director

Magazines help push St Ives over £15m

By MARTIN WALLER

A STRONG performance from British magazines enabled St Ives, the specialist printer, to move profits, margins and dividends ahead sharply in the first half of the financial year.

The share responded with a 13p rise to 26p as the company, chaired by Miles Emley, reported pre-tax profits up by 31 per cent to £15.7 million in the six months to January 27, disregarding exceptional items of £4.9 million the previous year.

St Ives is raising the interim dividend from 1.9p to 2.5p, paid out of earnings per share up 36 per cent to 11.6p. Pre-tax margins across the group rose

by two percentage points to 12.3 per cent in the first half.

Areas performing least well were corporate publishing, in which St Ives's business produces commercially sensitive documents, and American magazines. An abrupt rise in business on the financial side after the first half has not been sustained. "Corporate financial activity, after the flurry of activity around February time, is pretty quiet still," Mr Emley said.

The American business turned a £18,000 loss last time into profits of almost £980,000, through increased sales, a better mix of work and production efficiencies. Times, page 26

Smurfit bids for another French mill

JEFFERSON Smurfit Group, the Irish industrial company, has launched a Fr452 million counterbid for Les Papeteries du Limousin (PDL), a French paper manufacturer.

Smurfit is offering Fr500 a share for PDL, topping an earlier Fr450 offer by France's Ernia Leydier that expires on May 2. PDL's shares, which closed on Monday at Fr439, were suspended yesterday after the announcement.

Smurfit said the acquisition would complement its French recycling mills and corrugated plants.

It acquired Saint-Gobain's La Cellulose du Pin paper business for Fr5.6 billion in August.

Mixed picture at Salomon

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

SALOMON, the US merchant bank, suffered a loss of \$179 million in the first quarter in client business, caused by depressed volumes of capital raising and market trading.

However, profits of \$239 million from Salomon's own account trading helped the company to reach a first-quarter net income of \$81 million, against \$66 million last year, or 59 cents a share

against 48 cents last year. First-quarter investment banking revenues suffered from \$70 million in pre-tax losses on underwriting Latin American securities.

Salomon said its Philbro division had earnings of \$123 million from its commodities trading activities, climbing from \$80 million a year ago. However, it warned investors that results from Philbro are

likely to show significant quarter-to-quarter volatility.

Philbro USA, the division's oil refining and marketing business, had the worst quarterly operating results in its ten-year history, with a \$31 million pre-tax loss, against earnings of \$27 million in the first quarter of 1994.

In February, the firm said that its 1994 losses were worse than previously announced.

Lincoln National takes over Laurentian

By ROBERT MILLER

LINCOLN NATIONAL, the American life company, yesterday announced it had almost doubled the size of its funds under management with the acquisition of Laurentian, the Canadian-owned life and unit trust company for \$237 million. The price also includes the assumption of \$44 million worth of debt.

The latest Lincoln National purchase is the third in 20 months and

brings its total funds under management to \$3.2 billion. Citibank Life was bought in August 1993 and Liberty Life in January this year. Lincoln National also bought the unit trust operations of Crown and Matheson in 1993 and 1990 respectively.

The Canadian Desjardins Group said the sale of the Laurentian Financial Group was "in line with our strategy of focusing our resources on developing our businesses in Canada. Following a competitive controlled

section of Laurentian undertaken by BZW, Lincoln National emerged as the preferred buyer."

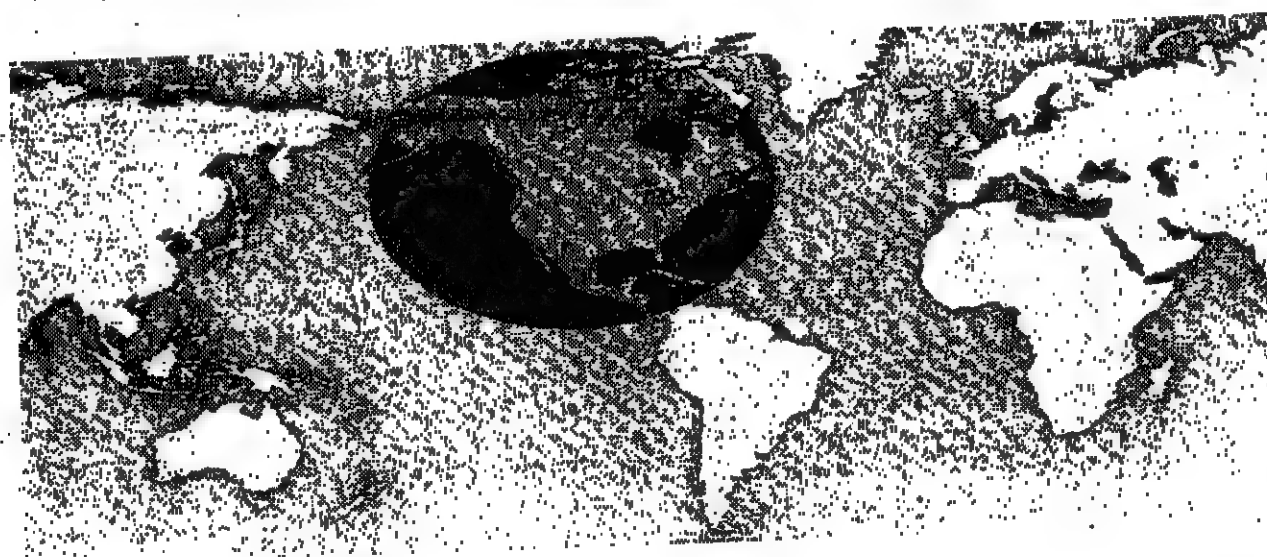
Lord Marsh, chairman of Laurentian, said: "Lincoln National's commitment to growth in the UK provides excellent prospects for both our customers and employees of the enlarged group which will increasingly become a major force in the UK life assurance industry."

Laurentian has about 686 sales staff compared with Lincoln National's

2,000 plus. In terms of regular premium business in force, the US company boasts £177 million worth against Laurentian's £129 million. The new combined group will have net annualised commission of £29 million and about 760,000 investors.

Jeffrey Nick, managing director of Lincoln National's UK arm, said: "The acquisition of Laurentian will nearly double the size of Lincoln National and creates one of the UK's largest unit-linked life companies."

BTR IN NORTH AMERICA



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THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYPayoff or
payout?

IT IS nail-biting time at SG Warburg where employees have been told that they must wait until May 29, and publication of year-end results, to learn what, if any, is their financial lot. In happier years, staff would have been told in early April of their bonus, profit sharing, and/or salary increase. However, the year to March 31 was not a happy one, and having already served profit alerts, nobody expects the results to make cheerful reading. Over the year, Warburg has shown many an employee the swing-door, and 1995 figures will bear the redundancy scars. Some of the nimble did manage to reach the exit well ahead of the sword destined to tap them on the shoulder. However, if anybody had thought about other career prospects, they are likely to wait to learn whether or not they are on or off chairman Sir David Scholey's list for year-end treats.



Scholey: year-end treats

Well-placed

HOOT! Alex Reed, founder and chairman of Reed Personnel Services, who has placed many a City star in his time, has received a most odd letter from America. Alex is asked for his professional help in finding a vice-president and managing director international for the sender's firm "which is... Kelly Services. Alex's reply is in the post.

A woman's right

NEVER — ever — underestimate the power of City Women's Network, whose members are tackling tomorrow's Take Our Daughters to Work Day with a vengeance. CWN — and their daughters — are crossing the threshold of the Athenaeum Club en masse. Within the Athenaeum's hallowed halls they will be addressed by, among others, Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, the UK's most senior woman judge. Vivienne Carlton of CWN gives the following undertakings ahead of the storming of the male bastion — no demonstrations, no shelling, no chaining of ourselves to club railings. We don't even have an Emily Pankhurst among our members," she says, adding, "men are welcome at all CWN events."

Union blues

OH THE irony of it. More than 32,000 members of UNIFI, the union that represents Barclays staff, have been given an extra week to vote on whether to take strike action over pay. The deadline is now 5pm on May 3. The extension follows "industrial action in North East post offices which meant that thousands of members in that area did not receive ballot papers sent out to them on April 10."

THE Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia, included in the outline of its graduation procedures this advice to students: "At the conclusion of the ceremony, marshals will instruct you when to join the recession."

COLIN CAMPBELL

IoD chief strikes a balance while keeping options open

Director-General
takes institute's
message to a wider
audience; reports
Philip Bassett

Britain's company directors are under fire probably as never before. In spite of their companies rising profitability, increasing output, good order books and strong exports, the running row over boardroom pay — with its accusations of fat-cat greed and back-scratching mutual salary rises — is laying directors open to unprecedented attack.

Leaders of the Institute of Directors are determined that their annual conference today will be part of a fresh attempt to rebalance the criticism — stressing instead the value and importance of wealth creation, which company directors uniquely bring to Britain's economy. Company directors will be urged to look way beyond the UK's shores towards winning in world markets.

A clutch of business leaders — Sir Colin Marshall, the British Airways chairman, John Towers, chief executive of Rover, and Hugh Jenkins, chief executive of the Prudential — will join Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, and Peter Sutherland, of the World Trade Organisation, in being the draw both for business and for company directors in particular.

For Tim Melville-Ross, former head of Nationwide Building Society, today will be his first conference as the IoD's Director-General. Though he insists his own views are in line with the IoD's core creed of free markets, free trade, competition, low taxation and low public spending, he is aware that his open, communicative style is prompting suspicions from the right and a broader judgment elsewhere that he is trying to draw the IoD more into the business and political mainstream.

At the same time, though, on a range of issues — but especially Europe and the single currency — the IoD appears to be aligning itself strongly with the Eurosceptic wing of the Conservative party, exemplified by Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary and guest of honour at this year's IoD dinner.

Outsiders see this as an attempt to write a balance sheet for the IoD's traditional support from the free-market right, from which position it was a successful lobby group in the Thatcherite 1980s, and at the same time to shift its ground to give it greater purchase with the more fiscally prudent Conservatives of the mid-1990s. He denies it. "We have to be consistent," he says. "We have to keep showing people why it is what we are saying makes sense." New research and policy papers to be published next month on the social chapter and the single currency will in addition restate IoD core values.

Yet, the shift in the political context in which the IoD operates is leaving the IoD at risk. It has gone from the point where, in the early 1980s, many of its ideas appeared almost without change in a listing of proposals for new laws to now where its Eurosceptic thinking is an important strand, but only one of



Tim Melville-Ross maintains that his organisation has to be consistent

many, in the Government's approach. After all, in the play for the future of Conservatism, the Eurosceptic-Portillo factor may lose.

Mr Heseltine's appearance today, on top of a private lunch with the IoD's leaders last week, suggests that Mr Melville-Ross is striving to keep options open. His acknowledgement, too, reported by *The Times* today, that even if he regards it as likely to be economically damaging to Britain — business largely accepts that Labour

will win the next general election is a wider illustration of that point and may indicate the even greater risk to the IoD of losing influence which a change of government would bring.

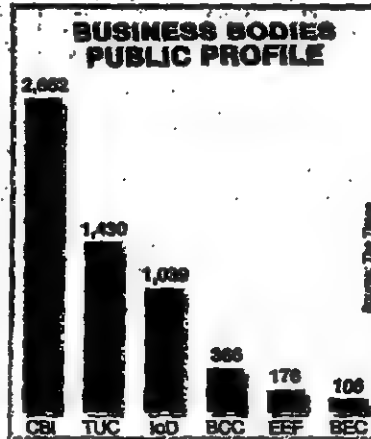
Buoyed up by rising membership and finances, IoD officials point to a slew of internal polling figures all suggesting the continuing im-

portance of the IoD's business, 53 per cent say it is a good voice for industry, 60 per cent see it as influential.

In public terms, the IoD still struggles against the idea of the Confederation of British Industry as the main voice for business. A computer scan by *The Times* of the contents of 20 leading British newspapers over the past year, charting the number of items about each of the leading business organisations, including the CBI, IoD,

chambers of commerce, EEF engineering and BEC building employers, and even, for comparison, the TUC, which appears in the graph, is a rough-and-ready index of the scale of the IoD's public profile gap.

Partly this is a general business problem. A recent study by Understanding Industry showed that the majority of



students could not say what the initials CBI stood for, or name three top British companies.

But then, unlike other business bodies, the IoD offers benefits which they do not. It is hard to imagine too many company heads socialising in the cramped offices behind Westminster Abbey of the British Chambers of Commerce, for instance, or in the bleak house of the CBI's Centre Point building. But the IoD's rather grand Pall Mall headquarters, just across the road from the Athenaeum, provides an impressive setting for the networking and individual member benefits which IoD leaders promote as an active draw to company directors.

For many of these, the IoD's activities as a business lobby body are interesting, but not central. Even IoD leaders accept that many are much more likely to be keen on the IoD as an elegant lunch and meetings venue, or on the IoD Visa Goldcard, or the near-40 per cent IoD discount on rooms at London's Park Lane Hilton Hotel, or 25 per cent off at Champneys Health Club, or the special £200-a-head IoD package at Royal Ascot in June.

Tim Melville-Ross acknowledges that the social and networking aspects of IoD membership will be as usual an important part of today's conference too. Perhaps they need to be, for after years of being a successful showcase for entrepreneurialism in the UK, last year's annual convention was acknowledged both within the institute and outside as somehow falling oddly flat.

However, since Mr Melville-Ross took over, the IoD has sharply improved its game. Its bi-monthly business opinion survey, for instance, was largely derided by policymakers at the Treasury and elsewhere as statistically flaky. Now the survey, the latest edition of which will be published at the weekend, has been substantially upgraded and shaped as an economic tool under its new economist Michael Taylor.

In spite of his communication skills, Mr Melville-Ross, though, has managed to raise eyebrows himself. Hanson, for instance, was reported as being angry about some of his statements on high executive pay awards, and indeed his apparent readiness to speak out on the top pay row has annoyed some other members of the Government-backed committee examining the issue under Sir Richard Greenbury, the Marks and Spencer chairman.

But at the same time, the IoD's promptness in at least starting to address the top pay problem with a set of mostly well-received guidelines on setting pay, which are likely to act as a benchmark at least until Greenbury reports, has drawn praise from industry, as has — for those in business who share the view — its robust rejection of a number of European moves, including compulsory works councils and full economic and monetary union.

Mr Melville-Ross points to the IoD's never-disputed opposition to the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System as an indication of the institute's consistency, and stresses that whatever the context — a different brand of Conservatism in power, a different brand of government in power — the IoD will continue to promote its free-market principles. "Just because the other side may win there is no reason for us to change our position."



ANTHONY LEWIS

The dollar: a
problem for
everyone else

The lectures which, as I write, are certainly being read to the US on its "responsibilities" for the dollar come from all the best authorities: Tokyo, Frankfurt and the IMF.

All the same, they are misdirected. Americans who remark that the dollar is a problem not for them but for everyone else may sound arrogant, but they are correct. The responsibility for solving a reserve currency crisis rests with the strong, as the US showed in the 1940s when it sponsored the Bretton Woods system and provided the finance to make it work. The trouble is that no-one has been prepared to follow their example.

The crisis, which at this stage is a crisis mainly for the Japanese and the D-mark bloc, has been brewing for a quarter of a century, and was historically inevitable. In a multicurrency world, any country whose money is held by all others as a reserve is at first the lord of creation: it can invest worldwide simply by printing money. In the 1950s, most world discussions were concerned with the seeming permanent dollar famine; and General De Gaulle started his long campaign against dollar imperialism.

In the long run, though, the reserve provider is pushed into large trade deficits, as others seek to earn money to service the capital they have borrowed and to build their reserves. Britain, at the peak of the previous cycle in 1910, had a trade deficit of a tenth of GNP. The predator becomes a victim, the creditor a debtor; and its currency slowly collapses. Short of the creation of a world trading currency managed by a world central bank — the solution proposed by Keynes at the Bretton Woods conference — this game of pass-the-parcel is bound to continue.

However both Germany, since the ill-tempered dollar-mark crisis of the late 1960s, and more recently Japan, have tried to resist taking their turn. That is why we have a European monetary system illogically based on the dollar as the currency of intervention. In the end, though, they will be elected by market forces, and the

distaste of central banks for holding reserves which seem to be endlessly falling in value. Much of the recent currency pressure has come from the smaller central banks — Taiwan, the Philippines and Sweden, among other — switching their reserves out of dollars, mainly into yen or D-marks. The question is how this demand is to be met.

The US might help marginally by issuing foreign currency debt, as it has before; but only Japan and Germany can create unlimited assets in their own currencies. At the moment, the markets are forcing their hands by pushing their currencies up to levels that will in the end drive them into trade deficit and ever-bigger exports of capital.

This causes domestic agony for the Japanese: it is not surprising that they want the Americans to make the dollar desirable again. The Germans see the main strain falling on their mark-bloc partners and have so far managed a more statesmanlike detachment, which causes less offence. But they could surely both more usefully try swimming with the tide, by offering to swap reserve assets with any central bank wanting to make the switch. This would leave them with huge unwanted dollar holdings; but there are worse fates. This would sterilise reserve switching, but commercial pressures would continue. These arise quite largely out of a contrast in central bank styles.

The Fed responds to any crisis threatening systemic financial damage by letting bust institutions collapse, but supplying new reserves on a large scale. The 1987 market crash, the banking crisis of the early Nineties, and now the Mexican collapse all fit this pattern. This has successfully nurtured new growth to fill the holes left by financial disasters.

The Japanese (and the French) prefer monetary purity, aid for the disabled, and managed markets: the Germans sit virtuously on the sidelines. Result: a dollar glut. A meeting of minds here would help; but it seems unlikely.

Robert Miller on Abbey's advance on N&P

Sting in the society squabble

Today's annual meeting of the National & Provincial Building Society should have been a tame affair. However, since Abbey National declared its intention to bid for N&P, the meeting that ordinarily attracts fewer than 40 people — mostly employees, can expect to be packed.

In readiness for the rush, the venue has been switched to the Norfolk Gardens Hotel in the centre of Bradford to cope with the extra numbers expected.

Members looking for enlightenment will be disappointed: Lord Shuttleworth, chairman of N&P, will read from a prepared statement in an effort to stop the Abbey National proposal dominating the whole meeting. Some hope. With the prospect of an average bonus payout of about £500 for N&P members, the N&P board will face some probing questions.

Lord Shuttleworth's statement says that the N&P board, while not dismissing the Abbey's advances out of hand, "will evaluate all relevant options carefully and will make a recommendation when it has completed its evaluation of the appropriate way forward. This is likely to take some time." Many N&P members, however, may ask why 18 months or so after receiving and promptly rejecting the first overture from Abbey National, the society's board seems to have no clearer strategy of where it is going. Alastair Lyons, chief executive of N&P, says that he has not received any relevant bid documentation from Abbey National.

Depending on the answers that they receive at today's meeting, N&P members may



Abbey advance: Lord Tugendhat, left, and Peter Birch

wish to petition the building society to call an extraordinary meeting to consider Abbey National's move in more detail. In theory, it is not difficult to drum up the necessary support to meet the rules governing extraordinary meetings. These state that provided that 100 qualifying members sign a petition calling for the special meeting, the society in question must do so.

In the recent £18 billion Lloyds Bank takeover of Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, dissatisfied members of the C&G Alternatives action group forced the society to convene an extra meeting. At present, it appears unlikely that any fledgling N&P action group would receive financial assistance from Abbey National. The bid for N&P, seemingly against the wishes of N&P's board, signals a new

N&P. That the news of Abbey National's bid was leaked in the weekend press is beyond dispute. Both sides had the motive for leaking the news. Abbey National, it could be said, frustrated by what it sees as the blocking tactics of N&P's board, decided to appeal above the heads of the society's directors to N&P's 3 million customers just days before the annual meeting. Equally, N&P could say that it was fed up with Abbey National's persistent overtures and wanted to make public the pressure that the society was being put under.

Abbey National, although reluctant to make public pronouncements that could inflame the situation, is understood to be baffled by the N&P response. Lord Tugendhat and Peter Birch, respectively chairman and chief executive of the Abbey National, might argue that it is not as if its bid for the society was a bolt out of the blue. Privately, Abbey National is saying that its long-standing proposal for a tie-up with N&P has never been put directly to the society's members, who own the assets.

For the moment at least, it appears that Abbey National's valuation of about £1 billion for N&P includes a substantial premium over net assets of £732 million, which would be shared between 1.7 million qualifying members. Any other suitor, and there are others, will find it difficult to match, let alone beat. Abbey National's sums. If they do, and they are a publicly listed company, they may have angry shareholders to answer to for squandering their money. Either way, it promises to be an interesting few weeks.

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شماره ۱۰۰

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

CHEMICALS		
177	100	Acetic Acid
178	100	Acetic Anhydride
179	100	Acetic Chloride
180	100	Acetic Oxide
181	100	Acetic Peroxide
182	100	Acetic Sulfide
183	100	Acetic Tetroxide
184	100	Acetic Trioxide
185	100	Acetic Pentoxide
186	100	Acetic Hexoxide
187	100	Acetic Heptoxide
188	100	Acetic Octoxide
189	100	Acetic Nonoxide
190	100	Acetic Decoxide
191	100	Acetic Undecoxide
192	100	Acetic Dodecoid
193	100	Acetic Tridecoid
194	100	Acetic Tetradecoid
195	100	Acetic Pentadecoid
196	100	Acetic Hexadecoid
197	100	Acetic Heptadecoid
198	100	Acetic Octadecoid
199	100	Acetic Eicosa
200	100	Acetic Hecosa
201	100	Acetic Triacont
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203	100	Acetic Pentacont
204	100	Acetic Hexacont
205	100	Acetic Heptacont
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207	100	Acetic Enneacont
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210	100	Acetic pentacont
211	100	Acetic hexacont
212	100	Acetic heptacont
213	100	Acetic octacont
214	100	Acetic enneacont
215	100	Acetictriacont
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289	100	Acetic heptacont

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1971	18-24	7.61	8.32	22	21
1971	25-34	8.52	8.62	25	25
1971	35-44	8.54	8.54	25	25
1971	45-54	7.29	8.17	22	22
1971	55-64	6.76	8.33	20	20
1971	65-74	6.22	8.22	19	19
1971	75-84	5.36	8.31	16	16
1971	85+	5.08	8.54	15	15
1971	90+	4.40	8.40	13	13
1971	95+	3.90	8.30	12	12
1971	100+	3.40	8.40	11	11
1971	105+	2.90	8.20	10	10
1971	110+	2.40	8.10	9	9
1971	115+	1.90	8.00	8	8
1971	120+	1.40	7.90	7	7
1971	125+	0.90	7.80	6	6
1971	130+	0.40	7.70	5	5
1971	135+	0.30	7.60	4	4
1971	140+	0.20	7.50	3	3
1971	145+	0.10	7.40	2	2
1971	150+	0.05	7.30	1	1
1971	155+	0.02	7.20	0	0
1971	160+	0.01	7.10	0	0
1971	165+	0.00	7.00	0	0
1971	170+	0.00	6.90	0	0
1971	175+	0.00	6.80	0	0
1971	180+	0.00	6.70	0	0
1971	185+	0.00	6.60	0	0
1971	190+	0.00	6.50	0	0
1971	195+	0.00	6.40	0	0
1971	200+	0.00	6.30	0	0
1971	205+	0.00	6.20	0	0
1971	210+	0.00	6.10	0	0
1971	215+	0.00	6.00	0	0
1971	220+	0.00	5.90	0	0
1971	225+	0.00	5.80	0	0
1971	230+	0.00	5.70	0	0
1971	235+	0.00	5.60	0	0
1971	240+	0.00	5.50	0	0
1971	245+	0.00	5.40	0	0
1971	250+	0.00	5.30	0	0
1971	255+	0.00	5.20	0	0
1971	260+	0.00	5.10	0	0
1971	265+	0.00	5.00	0	0
1971	270+	0.00	4.90	0	0
1971	275+	0.00	4.80	0	0
1971	280+	0.00	4.70	0	0
1971	285+	0.00	4.60	0	0
1971	290+	0.00	4.50	0	0
1971	295+	0.00	4.40	0	0
1971	300+	0.00	4.30	0	0
1971	305+	0.00	4.20	0	0
1971	310+	0.00	4.10	0	0
1971	315+	0.00	4.00	0	0
1971	320+	0.00	3.90	0	0
1971	325+	0.00	3.80	0	0
1971	330+	0.00	3.70	0	0
1971	335+	0.00	3.60	0	0
1971	340+	0.00	3.50	0	0
1971	345+	0.00	3.40	0	0
1971	350+	0.00	3.30	0	0
1971	355+	0.00	3.20	0	0
1971	360+	0.00	3.10	0	0
1971	365+	0.00	3.00	0	0
1971	370+	0.00	2.90	0	0
1971	375+	0.00	2.80	0	0
1971	380+	0.00	2.70	0	0
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1971	405+	0.00	2.20	0	0
1971	410+	0.00	2.10	0	0
1971	415+	0.00	2.00	0	0
1971	420+	0.00	1.90	0	0
1971	425+	0.00	1.80	0	0
1971	430+	0.00	1.70	0	0
1971	435+	0.00	1.60	0	0
1971	440+	0.00	1.50	0	0
1971	445+	0.00	1.40	0	0
1971	450+	0.00	1.30	0	0
1971	455+	0.00	1.20	0	0
1971	460+	0.00	1.10	0	0
1971	465+	0.00	1.00	0	0
1971	470+	0.00	0.90	0	0
1971	475+	0.00	0.80	0	0
1971	480+	0.00	0.70	0	0
1971	485+	0.00	0.60	0	0
1971	490+	0.00	0.50	0	0
1971	495+	0.00	0.40	0	0
1971	500+	0.00	0.30	0	0
1971	505+	0.00	0.20	0	0
1971	510+	0.00	0.10	0	0
1971	515+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	520+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	525+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	530+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	535+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	540+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	545+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	550+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	555+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	560+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	565+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	570+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	575+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	580+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	585+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	590+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	595+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	600+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	605+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	610+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	615+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	620+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	625+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	630+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	635+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	640+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	645+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	650+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	655+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	660+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	665+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	670+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	675+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	680+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	685+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	690+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	695+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	700+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	705+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	710+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	715+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	720+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	725+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	730+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	735+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	740+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	745+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	750+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	755+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	760+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	765+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	770+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	775+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	780+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	785+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	790+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	795+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	800+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	805+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	810+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	815+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	820+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	825+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	830+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	835+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	840+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	845+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	850+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	855+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	860+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	865+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	870+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	875+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	880+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	885+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	890+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	895+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	900+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	905+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	910+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	915+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	920+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	925+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	930+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	935+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	940+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	945+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	950+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	955+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	960+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	965+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	970+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	975+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	980+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	985+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	990+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	995+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	1000+	0.00	0.00	0	0

S, GENERAL		
26	1	17 127
27	1	13 130
28	1	13 131
29	1	13 132
30	1	13 133
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129	1	13 232
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135	1	13 238
136	1	13 239
137	1	13 240
138	1	13 241
139	1	13 242
140	1	13 243
141	1	13 244
142	1	13 245
143	1	13 246

1	34	46.8
2	27	18.6
3	21	14.3
4	15	10.7
5	10	7.1
6	5	3.5

1	6	5.9	11.4
2	15	4.3	11.5
3	1	5.5	3.0
4	5	3.8	5.7
5	1	5.5	8.8
6	1	5.5	10.2
7	1	6.3	7.6
8	1	5.5	6.8
9	1	5.5	6.5
10	1	5.5	6.5
11	5	5.5	6.1

chi-square = 6.9246,
 with 10 degrees
 of freedom, the
 p-value is 0.8020.

18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538</
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[illegible][illegible]

Portugal	151	5.1	7.7
Prussia (Lithuania)	151	5.3	11.6
Russia	151	5.3	11.6
East SBT	151	5.3	11.6
Spain	151	5.3	11.6
Sweden	151	5.3	11.6
Switzerland	151	5.3	11.6
Taiwan	151	5.3	11.6
Thailand	151	5.3	11.6
U.S.	151	5.3	11.6
U.S.S.R.	151	5.3	11.6
Yugoslavia	151	5.3	11.6
Germany	151	5.3	11.6
France	151	5.3	11.6
Japan	151	5.3	11.6
China	151	5.3	11.6
India	151	5.3	11.6
South Korea	151	5.3	11.6
North Korea	151	5.3	11.6
Laos	151	5.3	11.6
Myanmar	151	5.3	11.6
Philippines	151	5.3	11.6
Singapore	151	5.3	11.6
Taiwan	151	5.3	11.6
Thailand	151	5.3	11.6
U.S.	151	5.3	11.6
U.S.S.R.	151	5.3	11.6
Yugoslavia	151	5.3	11.6
Germany	151	5.3	11.6
France	151	5.3	11.6
Japan	151	5.3	11.6
China	151	5.3	11.6
India	151	5.3	11.6
South Korea	151	5.3	11.6
North Korea	151	5.3	11.6
Laos	151	5.3	11.6
Myanmar	151	5.3	11.6
Philippines	151	5.3	11.6
Singapore	151	5.3	11.6
Taiwan	151	5.3	11.6
Thailand	151	5.3	11.6
U.S.	151	5.3	11.6
U.S.S.R.	151	5.3	11.6
Yugoslavia	151	5.3	11.6
Germany	151	5.3	11.6
France	151	5.3	11.6
Japan	151	5.3	11.6
China	151	5.3	11.6
India	151	5.3	11.6
South Korea	151	5.3	11.6
North Korea	151	5.3	11.6
Laos	151	5.3	11.6
Myanmar	151	5.3	11.6
Philippines	151	5.3	11.6
Singapore	151	5.3	11.6
Taiwan	151	5.3	11.6
Thailand	151	5.3	11.6
U.S.	151	5.3	11.6
U.S.S.R.	151	5.3	11.6
Yugoslavia	151	5.3	11.6
Germany	151	5.3	11.6
France	151	5.3	11.6
Japan	151	5.3	11.6
China	151	5.3	11.6
India	151	5.3	11.6
South Korea	151	5.3	11.6
North Korea	151	5.3	11.6
Laos	151	5.3	11.6
Myanmar	151	5.3	11.6
Philippines	151	5.3	11.6
Singapore	151	5.3	11.6
Taiwan	151	5.3	11.6
Thailand	151	5.3	11.6
U.S.	151	5.3	11.6
U.S.S.R.	151	5.3	11.6
Yugoslavia	151	5.3	11.6
Germany	151	5.3	11.6
France	151	5.3	11.6
Japan	151	5.3	11.6
China	151	5.3	11.6
India	151	5.3	11.6
South Korea	151	5.3	11.6
North Korea	151	5.3	11.6
Laos	151	5.3	11.6
Myanmar	151	5.3	11.6
Philippines	151	5.3	11.6
Singapore	151	5.3	11.6
Taiwan	151	5.3	11.6
Thailand	151	5.3	11.6
U.S.	151	5.3	11.6
U.S.S.R.	151	5.3	11.6
Yugoslavia	151	5.3	11.6
Germany	151	5.3	11.6
France	151	5.3	11.6
Japan	151	5.3	11.6

[illegible][illegible]

1971	18-24	7.61	8.32	22	21
1971	25-34	8.52	8.62	25	25
1971	35-44	8.54	8.54	25	25
1971	45-54	7.29	8.17	22	22
1971	55-64	6.76	8.33	20	20
1971	65-74	6.22	8.22	19	19
1971	75-84	5.36	8.31	16	16
1971	85+	5.08	8.54	15	15
1971	90+	4.40	8.40	13	13
1971	95+	3.90	8.30	12	12
1971	100+	3.40	8.40	11	11
1971	105+	2.90	8.20	10	10
1971	110+	2.40	8.10	9	9
1971	115+	1.90	8.00	8	8
1971	120+	1.40	7.90	7	7
1971	125+	0.90	7.80	6	6
1971	130+	0.40	7.70	5	5
1971	135+	0.30	7.60	4	4
1971	140+	0.20	7.50	3	3
1971	145+	0.10	7.40	2	2
1971	150+	0.05	7.30	1	1
1971	155+	0.02	7.20	0	0
1971	160+	0.01	7.10	0	0
1971	165+	0.00	7.00	0	0
1971	170+	0.00	6.90	0	0
1971	175+	0.00	6.80	0	0
1971	180+	0.00	6.70	0	0
1971	185+	0.00	6.60	0	0
1971	190+	0.00	6.50	0	0
1971	195+	0.00	6.40	0	0
1971	200+	0.00	6.30	0	0
1971	205+	0.00	6.20	0	0
1971	210+	0.00	6.10	0	0
1971	215+	0.00	6.00	0	0
1971	220+	0.00	5.90	0	0
1971	225+	0.00	5.80	0	0
1971	230+	0.00	5.70	0	0
1971	235+	0.00	5.60	0	0
1971	240+	0.00	5.50	0	0
1971	245+	0.00	5.40	0	0
1971	250+	0.00	5.30	0	0
1971	255+	0.00	5.20	0	0
1971	260+	0.00	5.10	0	0
1971	265+	0.00	5.00	0	0
1971	270+	0.00	4.90	0	0
1971	275+	0.00	4.80	0	0
1971	280+	0.00	4.70	0	0
1971	285+	0.00	4.60	0	0
1971	290+	0.00	4.50	0	0
1971	295+	0.00	4.40	0	0
1971	300+	0.00	4.30	0	0
1971	305+	0.00	4.20	0	0
1971	310+	0.00	4.10	0	0
1971	315+	0.00	4.00	0	0
1971	320+	0.00	3.90	0	0
1971	325+	0.00	3.80	0	0
1971	330+	0.00	3.70	0	0
1971	335+	0.00	3.60	0	0
1971	340+	0.00	3.50	0	0
1971	345+	0.00	3.40	0	0
1971	350+	0.00	3.30	0	0
1971	355+	0.00	3.20	0	0
1971	360+	0.00	3.10	0	0
1971	365+	0.00	3.00	0	0
1971	370+	0.00	2.90	0	0
1971	375+	0.00	2.80	0	0
1971	380+	0.00	2.70	0	0
1971	385+	0.00	2.60	0	0
1971	390+	0.00	2.50	0	0
1971	395+	0.00	2.40	0	0
1971	400+	0.00	2.30	0	0
1971	405+	0.00	2.20	0	0
1971	410+	0.00	2.10	0	0
1971	415+	0.00	2.00	0	0
1971	420+	0.00	1.90	0	0
1971	425+	0.00	1.80	0	0
1971	430+	0.00	1.70	0	0
1971	435+	0.00	1.60	0	0
1971	440+	0.00	1.50	0	0
1971	445+	0.00	1.40	0	0
1971	450+	0.00	1.30	0	0
1971	455+	0.00	1.20	0	0
1971	460+	0.00	1.10	0	0
1971	465+	0.00	1.00	0	0
1971	470+	0.00	0.90	0	0
1971	475+	0.00	0.80	0	0
1971	480+	0.00	0.70	0	0
1971	485+	0.00	0.60	0	0
1971	490+	0.00	0.50	0	0
1971	495+	0.00	0.40	0	0
1971	500+	0.00	0.30	0	0
1971	505+	0.00	0.20	0	0
1971	510+	0.00	0.10	0	0
1971	515+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	520+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	525+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	530+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	535+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	540+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	545+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	550+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	555+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	560+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	565+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	570+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	575+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	580+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	585+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	590+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	595+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	600+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	605+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	610+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	615+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	620+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	625+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	630+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	635+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	640+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	645+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	650+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	655+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	660+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	665+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	670+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	675+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	680+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	685+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	690+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	695+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	700+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	705+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	710+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	715+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	720+	0.00	0.00	0	0
1971	725+	0.00	0.00	0	0
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MUSICALS

Lorenz Hart: why every song-loving person in the civilised world should celebrate his centenary



THEATRE

Rattigan revived: Air Force pilots and their anxious wives grapple with love in a disappointing *Flare Path*

THE TIMES ARTS



POP

No spangles in sight in a big-hearted performance by Nashville singer Deana Carter



TOMORROW

From a handsome Hollywood epic to voyeuristic fun and games with Atom Egoyan, the week's films reviewed

He made us smile with his Hart

Many of the century's finest lyrics were written by a heroically sad, drunken little man born 100 years ago next week. **Richard Morrison** reports

On the saddest night of somebody's life also be their finest moment? The night I am thinking of is March 31, 1943. The great Broadway composer Richard Rodgers had taken a gamble. After 20 years, he had ditched his lyricist, who was lapsing into terminal alcoholism, and turned to a wordsmith who had not had a Broadway hit in years.

Together they had adapted Lynn Riggs's *Green Grow the Lilacs*, a folksy play about farmers and cowboys. The title hardly packed a punch, so Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II renamed it *Oklahoma!* What unfolded that night, and on the 2,247 Broadway nights that followed, redefined musical theatre.

But what of that ditched lyricist? Even in the age of Forster and Coward his ingenious rhymes and dazzling wit were unsurpassed. For two decades Lorenz Hart had been a prince of Broadway. Even in New York seasons when 250 new shows had opened, his collaborations with Rodgers had been the toast of the town. Now, as he sat watching *Oklahoma!*, he recognised a future in which he would play no part. Did he succumb to jealousy? If so, he hid it majestically. As Rodgers pushed his way through the after-show crush at Sardi's, Hart rushed up to him. "Dick, I've never had a better evening in my life," he said. "This show will be around 20 years from now."

Then the tiny, raddled Hart melted into the crowd, and into oblivion. Eight months later the booze killed him. The choreographer George Balanchine called Hart "the Shelley of America". The actress Edith Meiser said he was "the American Toulouse-Lautrec". And next Tuesday, when every song-loving person in the civilised world should be celebrating the centenary of Hart's birth, more grand com-

parisons will doubtless be made. But Hart surely spoke his own epitaph. After a long night of serious imbibing, he turned to his protégé, Alan Jay Lerner, and said: "I've got a lot of talent, kid. If I cared, I probably could have been a genius." Is there a more magnificent shrug of self-deprecation in all of Broadway mythology?

The fact is, only one thing in popular song can surpass the

“He was a mess, even before the drink took hold”

sweeping genius of a great Hart opening chorus...

I'm wild again
Beguiled again
A simpering, whimpering child again

... and that is a great Hart second chorus, laced even more strongly with sardonic humour:

Vexed again
Perplexed again
Thank God I can be oversexed again

It is probable that the strait-laced Rodgers hardly understood his collaborator at all. Rodgers was a meticulous workaholic who approached the task of composition with all the spontaneity of an accountant totting up a column of figures.

Hart, on the other hand, was a mess, even before the drink took hold. He rarely saw the morning. He was in constant emotional turmoil and supremely unsuccessful in his

love life. As Lerner noted, he "seemed deprived of the happiness his lyrical gifts gave to others". Perhaps that is why his most touching lyrics — *My Funny Valentine*, *The Lady Is a Tramp* — seem to be addressed consolingly to other misfits: "Your looks are laughable; unphotographable. Yet you're my favourite work of art."

But when paper, pencil and deadline lay before Hart, that mess of a brain became razor-sharp. *Ten Cents a Dance* was knocked off in half an hour when Florenz Ziegfeld demanded something "not too highbrow"; no finer articulation of a prostitute's contempt for her clients has yet been made in song.

Even at the end of his life, Hart's verbal ability was undimmed. His last song, *To Keep My Love Alive*, is a splendid exercise in romance-mocking black comedy:

I've married many men.
A ton of them.
And yet I was untrue to none of them.
Because I bumped off every one of them
To keep my love alive.

Hart had met Rodgers, seven years his junior, in 1918. But the two only broke into professional show-writing in 1925 with *The Garrick Gaieties*. Needing seven songs in a hurry, they resuscitated one from an earlier effort. The song was *Manhattan*. The public knew a good thing when they heard it. In the next 12 months, Rodgers and Hart banged out six more musicals. Thereafter, apart from an unsuccessful period in Hollywood, they turned out one musical a year for 15 years, culminating in the triumphant succession of *On Your Toes*, *Babes in Arms*, *The Boys from Syracuse* and *Pal Joey*. The plots are mostly preposterous; not surprisingly, since they were largely designed to accommodate the egos of the various stars. But the songs:

When love congeals
It soon reveals
The faint aroma of performing seals.
The double-crossing of a pair of heels



Lorenz Hart and Richard Rodgers: it was the perfect partnership until Hart's drinking affected his ability to work

they will live for as long as there are performers who appreciate a well-turned line.

By the early 1940s, however, Hart had lost the will to work. The fraught final collaboration, *By Jupiter*, was completed in the hospital where Hart was dying out. The pragmatic Rodgers camped in a guest room with his Steinway until he had extracted every last lyric from his partner. It was then that he told Hart that he was dumping him.

Hart must have seen it coming, but if he was bitter the only clue lies in his lyrics:

When love congeals
It soon reveals
The faint aroma of performing seals.
The double-crossing of a pair of heels

As fate would have it, Hart's centenary is followed this summer (on July 12) by Hammerstein's. Comparisons will be inevitable: not only because both lyricists were Rodgers's partners, but also because they seem so diametrically opposed as characters.

Hart was the playboy, tossing off sensational lyrics with insouciant ease between bourbon bonbons. Hammerstein was the family man — a predictable, apple-pie American, painstakingly polishing a single song for weeks, like a minor canon composing a sermon. Hart fertilised something zestful and saucy in Rodgers's musical imagination; Hammerstein intensified the composer's hymn-writing tendency. Hart cared not a fig for dramatic cohesion or for pos-

terity; Hammerstein earnestly crafted moralising blockbusters designed to dominate the stage for years.

Hart or Hammerstein: who was the greater? It is a daft question, of course, yet it produces strident opinions. "Of the thousands of working musicians who still approach Rodgers and Hart with the eagerness of kindred spirits, there is hardly one who warms to the popular appeal of Rodgers and Hammerstein," says the broadcaster Benny Green. "Many of Hammerstein's librettos were catastrophes on an epic scale."

That seems a little hard. *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, *The Sound of Music*: these are not catastrophes, or at least not within the normal meaning of

the word. Nevertheless, they did exercise a sobering influence that persists to this day. After Hammerstein, musicals had to be mature, unified entities that admitted no self-debunking pranks and ran like well-oiled machines. They were controlled by total professionals, not men who got drunk in bars and said things like "If I cared, I probably could have been a genius".

Thank God, then, that Hart lived when he did. Twenty years later, and he would have been an anachronism before he had begun — or else turning out impossibly clever jingles in some advertising agency. Which would have been a waste.

© Lorenz Hart: A Post on Broadway by Frederick Nolan, is reviewed tomorrow

Chipper off the old block

POP

Deana Carter
Jazz Café, NW1

TRY coming from Nashville with the family name of Carter and persuading anyone who will listen that you are not pure country. It might explain why Deana Carter is only just getting noticed in a broader musical field at the age of 29. But Deana hails not from the Carter-Cash dynasty; she is the daughter of the session player Fred Carter Jr. Though steeped in Nashville tradition, she has emerged this year as another of the breed whose stylistic span reaches beyond country.

Patriot/EMI has incubated Carter's talent during a three-month stay in the UK that is now bringing rewards. The sound and attitude of that February album *Did I Shave My Legs for This?* announced a singer and writer of sweet, sad and affecting songs, influenced by the music of her home, yet spangle-free. After a London media showcase, Carter landed the support slot on the recent month-long Jimmy Nail tour, a slightly ironic combination of an American trying to shake the shackles of country with a Georgia with cowboy dreams of crocodile shoes.

This one-off headline appearance at the end of that valuable and successful national spotlight showed that Carter's presence and her belief in her set of compositions have grown strong and healthy. Playing with a dependable British five-piece, she went confidently into *Angie Without a Prayer*, a perhaps autobiographical piece imbued with the disappointments of her career struggles.

More used to solo performance but warming to the role of band leader, she made frequent use of a warm Southern drawl and a smile that could crack a safe, dedicating *Rita Valentine* to my cousin's



Deana Carter: much more than a country performer

ex-wife. The album's title track is a potential feminist anthem but for the fun it pokes at the singer as well as her ball and chain: "It's perfectly clear between the TV and beer/I won't get so much as a kiss." The rocker *Turn Those Wheels Around* is her thank-you to Willie Nelson, a long-time champion of Carter's talents. The set was enriched by some cleverly chosen covers, of the Eagles' *Already Gone* and, as an encore, the Georgia Satellites' *Keep Your Hands To Yourself*, one of the final touches in a big-hearted performance.

KATE BASSETT PAUL SEXTON

The human league

IF THE saxophonist Julian Nicholas meant to convey an impression of resilient adaptability by naming his band Mountain People, his impulse was appropriate. Whether negotiating a passage through his own tricky themes, tripping lightly through Pat Metheny's *James*, or emphasising the heart-on-sleeve romantic earnestness of Iain Ballamy's *Strawberries*, the quartet — Nicholas on soprano and tenor, Mark Edwards, piano and synthesizer, Steve Rose, bass and Dave Wickins, drums — combined agility with easily borne resourcefulness in two hour-long sets of absorbing and original music.

Nicholas is perhaps best

JAZZ
Mountain People
Vortex, N16

known for a brief association with the British 1980s big band Loose Tubes and for his more recent occupation of the saxophone chair in the band led by the fellow Tubes alumnus, flautist Eddie Parker. Ex-Tubers tend to operate in the gentler, more contemplative areas of jazz, their music refreshingly open to influences from various sources.

With his delicate, wispy, intensely human sound on both horns, Nicholas definite-

ly belongs to this category of performer, but as both he and his band demonstrated on *James*, the gig's opener, this mild exterior conceals much fire and commitment. Like Metheny, from whose critically mauled but widely popular and hugely influential early-1980s album *Off Ramp* the song comes, Nicholas renders his occasional outbursts of passion all the more effective by restraining and rationing them, and his cascading soprano solo over the slowly building urgency of the rhythm section was a model of controlled power.

The affectingly bleak tenor idyll *Strawberries* aside (an attempt by composer Ballamy to recreate the pleasant languor induced by strawberry picking), Mountain People relied entirely on Nicholas' compositions for the rest of their two sets.

Taken in the main from their eponymous debut Rainbow Sound recording, these generally took the form of lengthy explorations of the possibilities raised by Nicholas's light, occasionally almost skittish themes, solo duties shared between his breathy soprano or warbling tenor. Edwards's lush, rippling piano and Rose's adventurous, plangent bass.

But the heart of Mountain People's sound was Wickins's drumming, which somehow contrived, in a manner reminiscent of the US master Paul Motian, to propel the band unerringly through the most understated tempos, making him the perfect Sherpa — the Tenzing Norgay to Nicholas's Edmund Hillary.

CHRIS PARKER

Flying high, falling flat

THEATRE

Flare Path
Bristol Old Vic

to the script in Freetown, surrounded by officers "going spectacularly to pieces in the White Man's Grave", armed with gin and tonic.

Flare Path, set in the Falcon



Nicky Henson plays the film star Peter Kyle in Terence Rattigan's twisting tale of private passions on parade

Hotel, Milchester, Lincolnshire, is more subtly dramatic. Its wartime couples put on brave faces when racked with fear, from Teddy, the flight lieutenant who suffers airborne panic attacks, to Doris, whose Polish husband does not return with the rest.

Rattigan is sensitive to the unsaid: the servicemen's chipper euphemisms and military secrets; others keeping mum about private passions, first out of moral cowardice, then self-sacrificingly in the case of Teddy's actress-wife Patricia and her true love, the film star Peter Kyle who has come to find her.

The twists of Rattigan's plot cleverly press home the poignancy. Suddenly facing life without Patricia, Kyle (a fine Nicky Henson with Clark Gable moustache) is asked by Doris to translate Skrzynvsky's painfully formal yet loving "goodbye" letter.

Unfortunately, director Andrew Hay's company seem to have squandered the script during a blackout. Or at least, they have not read between the lines sharply enough. There is, for instance, little sign that Squadron Leader Swanson (Jack Hedley, groping for his words rather) has twigged Patricia's imminent domestic desertion and is steering her back to base.

Barbara Wilshire's Patricia, getting tight on gin, could be far more fraught. Amanda Harris's Doris accrues intensity, briskly polite as her pain grows, but does not consistent-

ly sound like a former barmaid. Helen Sheals's Mrs Miller is lovely dour. Terry Taplin is bemusedly Polish with panache. But elsewhere both the class tensions and the comedy get flattened.

The hotel architect appears to have rooled the Falcon with the top half of a charmed hangar, which creates a ghostly effect as the characters kiss farewell beyond the gaze walls. Yet the thrill of racing clouds, projected between scenes, rapidly fades.

There is one moment of heart-shaking power when the house reverberates with the roar of engines as the squadron takes off and disappears into silence. What was worrying, though, was that the preceding hour of human interaction had touched no such nerve.

KATE BASSETT

ex-wife. The album's title track is a potential feminist anthem but for the fun it pokes at the singer as well as her ball and chain: "It's perfectly clear between the TV and beer/I won't get so much as a kiss." The rocker *Turn Those Wheels Around* is her thank-you to Willie Nelson, a long-time champion of Carter's talents. The set was enriched by some cleverly chosen covers, of the Eagles' *Already Gone* and, as an encore, the Georgia Satellites' *Keep Your Hands To Yourself*, one of the final touches in a big-hearted performance.

KATE BASSETT PAUL SEXTON

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Edith Wharton's satirical study of turn of the century New York. *The House of Mirth*, goes to Winchester

TONIGHT

Chichester opens with Derek Jacobi as the 20th-century Englishman who imagines himself to be Pope

THE TIMES ARTS

VISUAL ART

Foxes in peril, hounds in pursuit: the Tate Gallery's exhibition of British Sporting Art pulls no punches

CONCERTS

The conductor Oliver Knussen offers his personal survey of the best in new British music

Of horse and hounded

VISUAL ART: The Tate's new exhibition makes up in gore what it may lack in political correctness, says

John Russell Taylor

Not long ago, the idea of the Tate Gallery putting on a show devoted to British Sporting Art would have raised no eyebrows. Of course it would include Stubbs, unquestionably one of the greatest British artists, and no doubt also James Ward, recently the subject of major "rediscovery" operations, and such variously distinguished figures as Landseer, the Swiss émigré Agassiz, and John Frederick Herring, Victorian portraitist of endless Derby winners. Artistic without being arty, what could be more unexceptionally "hereditary"?

This year, things are not quite so simple. While the show, or most of it, stands in no need of aesthetic defence, it is difficult to justify it entirely in terms of political correctness. For though relatively uncontroversial sports such as horse racing do occur — as in Stubbs's superb *Orlando* with John Larkin Up, set on Newmarket Heath — on this evidence the predominant British sport in art would seem to be fox-hunting.

Nor is all the evidence produced in favour of the artists' humaneness entirely convincing. We are told to observe in Sawrey Glyn's *Death of the Fox* (1793) that the fox is shown in a state of terror and pain which may be expected to excite pity. But we are also told that apparently Glyn was so obsessed with the desirability of capturing the hounds closing in on the fox in a truly lifelike pose that he had several killed and pinned to boards in the required positions.

From such Landseer paintings as *Dear And Dear Hounds In A Moun-*



Unpleasant pursuit the unstable Fox-hunting in Wooded Country by Peter Tillemans, painted c. 1720-30

tain Torrent we may well get less pity for the beleaguered stag than complacent acceptance of man's inhumanity to animals.

Sporting Art is, when you think of it, a curious sort of genre anyway, defined as it is, entirely in terms of subject matter. This does mean that one or two on the face of it unlikely artists find their way into the shows. John Frederick Lewis, for instance, normally associated entirely with glimpses of

urban Egypt and the harem, is represented here by *Buck Shooting in Windsor Great Park* (1825), painted with several other animal subjects at Windsor before he ever set eyes on a soul.

George Morland is a little nearer to expectations of a sporting artist, in that at least he generally found his subjects in the English countryside, but *Rabbiting* (1792) is still slightly exceptional.

It must also be confessed that a lot of sporting art has to be primarily preaching to the converted. Ben Marshall, for example, is a very capable artist, but one would need to be rather more interested in horses than in art to take very much of him at a time. In this take very much of him at a time. In this

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CONCERT: Knussen shifts attention to Matthews and Anderson

Fresh light on the new

British Music Now
Barbican Hall

an effect than the aggressive battery of percussion that had some horn players, sitting just in front, stopping their ears with their fingers.

Both these were prefaced by some platform chit-chat with the evening's two composers.

Extending an already lengthy programme, it mainly result-

ed in an extra bout of that furniture removal that seems endemic to programmes of contemporary music.

Dividing the programme between orchestra and Nash Ensemble, however, meant that the composers could be represented by a wider range of works, as with Anderson in his evocative *Sadrigli*, setting just a few lines of the Walt Whitman verse that Debus used in his work of the same title. Here voiced expressively

by the soprano Rosemary Hardy, with an instrumental Brabbin, it gave a wholly different slant to the verse, as a version of *The Bearded Lady* for clarinet (Michael Collins) and piano (Andrew Ball) did in its sympathetic lament for a circus freak.

Matthews provided a resourceful technical study in his *Palinodes* for solo cello, played with commitment and delicacy by Christopher van Kampen, and in his *Figs* of 1988 he translated an movement of a larger vocal work into a hectoring solo scherzo for eight of the Nash players.

NOEL GOODWIN

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MUSEUMS

Flying the flag for British history: how a national museum would use the story of our past to enhance our future



OPERA 1

The Berliners do Beethoven in Paris, but their elegant *Fidelio* is a pointless exercise in designer-chic

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA 2

Not necessarily a bad thing: WNO surprises the sceptics with a sparky G & S at Covent Garden



MUSIC

A happy artistic marriage as Itzhak Perlman performs Dvořák's Violin Concerto with the Philharmonia

A house for our history?

Kenneth Hudson
puts forward the case for Britain to build a new museum that tells the national story

This evening the Council of Europe is holding a ceremony in Strasbourg at which the recently opened House of History of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn will be given the council's annual prize. The Council of Europe prize is given to a new museum which is judged to be making an outstanding contribution to the development of understanding between different countries.

So far, only two European countries, Denmark and Germany, have a museum which tells their national story. Denmark opened its completely transformed National Museum three years ago and Germany has still only partially completed the task. Bonn is dealing with Germany since 1945 and Berlin is concerned with the period before that date, in a new museum which will take another four or five years to complete. No other country in Europe has a national museum which allows its citizens to discover their own roots and helps them to understand how a mixture of peoples and cultures has produced the results that exist today.

Since 1977, I have travelled widely throughout Europe visiting museums. Each year it seemed more and more extraordinary to me that no country was even thinking of filling what seemed a glaringly obvious gap in their museum provision. The nearest that anyone had so far got to it was the cleverly named Museum for [not of] German History in East Berlin. But that started its displays only in 1989, the year of the French Revolution, and since it had been created by the postwar Communist regime it was written off as mere propaganda in West Germany and rarely mentioned in polite museum circles elsewhere.

It was this museum in East Berlin that convinced me that every country ought to have a mother-museum which would tell the basic national story in all its aspects. The West Germans were understandably wary of doing this, because they had been through more than ten years of dangerous dogma. They had come to believe that a national museum of history was only possible under a dictatorship, because in a democracy there could not be an agreed philosophy of history.

But, by the 1980s, the Germans had come to see that the main purpose of a museum of history was not to communicate facts, because so-called historical facts are usually versions of facts, but to increase the awareness of history and to stimulate a free discussion about the past. Once this policy had been agreed, Germany felt able to plan and build its museums in Bonn and Berlin. This revolutionary idea, that a museum is primarily a discussion place, not an information place, is beginning to make its way in the museum world. The new national science museum, Impuls, which is under construction in Amsterdam, is based on it.

Inspired by the Danes and the Germans and blessed, I hope, by the Millennium Commission, we in Britain will be the next European country

to have a national museum of history. We intend to follow the German example and call it History House.

It will inevitably deal with Ireland as well as the United Kingdom, because it makes historical nonsense not to talk about the British Isles as a whole. We have been seriously considering the idea of dividing material into four closely interrelated blocks, with the working titles of "Maintaining the British", "Inspiring the British", "Controlling the British" and "The British and Foreigners".

Block One would be concerned with feeding, clothing and housing the population and enabling it to survive and earn a living. Block Two with religion and the arts and with other citizens feel there is more to life than procreating and filling one's stomach: Block Three with the law and its enforcement and with government; and Block Four with the way in which the inhabitants of the British Isles have reacted with people from other countries and other cultures, fought with

them and killed them, dealt with them as tourists, absorbed them as immigrants, and attempted to co-operate with them politically.

Every part of this programme has a never-ending supply of subjects for discussion and ferocious argument. We do not see History House as a quiet and peaceful place and we shall have failed if it turns out that way. The choice of a suitable person to take charge will be crucial and we have no idea at the moment what his or her background and previous experience will have been. A professor of history of museum director does not seem likely at present, and an Irishman is as possible a candidate as a Londoner.

The House of History in Bonn was designed to meet a specifically German situation. It is fulfilling this task admirably. But every country has to tackle the problem in its own way. In Britain there could be no question of relying on political approval and official money to get the job done, as was necessary in Germany. Parliament would never be required to back

the scheme in the way that the Bundestag has, although one might reasonably expect its general goodwill.

The idea of a national museum of history in Britain was conceived by me three years ago and then nourished and developed by a small group of like-minded historians and journalists, with an architect and a BBC man to give extra flavour to the mix. The project will be financed and carried out in the usual British atmosphere of enthusiasm, trial-and-error, setbacks, devoted obstinacy, mud-slinging and lack of understanding.

It will eventually reach a successful conclusion because the British people are tired of not knowing who and what they are and what they ought to do next. There is an instinctive, unexpressed feeling among all classes that the time has come for us to weigh up our national achievements, to understand our strong and weak points. History House, one might say, is a course of long-overdue therapy.

● Kenneth Hudson is director of the European Museum of the Year Award Trust



CONCERTS: Philharmonia at 50; plus Pärt and Fauré

metana and Dvořák between them imparted an almost cosy character to what the Philharmonia Orchestra billed as its fiftieth anniversary gala concert, conducted by Claus Peter Flor, although Dvořák's *Te Deum* struck a more jubilant note with a festive mood that is far from sanctimonious. Perhaps its relative brevity makes it difficult to programme satisfactorily, but its abundantly rhythmic spirit makes an exhilarating effect.

A mainstay of this performance was the confident singing of the Philharmonia Chorus trained by Simon Halley. The Australian soprano Yvonne Kenny was bright and burished of tone in her two extensive solos, complemented by the majestic bass of Alastair Miles in his powerful solo passage.

Flor's invigorating conducting obtained a secure balance between voices and orchestra.

Virtue from a virtuoso

Philharmonia/Flor Festival Hall

The woodwind contributed some nicely pointed and decorative detail, with the strings always keenly in support of the singers.

Their playing was also warmly supportive of Itzhak Perlman in his elegant feeling for Dvořák's Violin Concerto, once they had got past some passages not quite together at the outset.

Perlman's robust passage-work, tempered with delicacy,

was a commanding feature of both first and last movements. Scrupulous in his attention to detail, he avoided the extra frills some other players allow themselves.

The central adagio movement was richly romantic in the soloist's tone-quality, achieving a poignant sense of yearning that was free of tearful sentiment, all adding up to a performance that put the virtue back into virtuosity.

Earlier, Smetana was at his most atavistic in the ubiquitous jollity of *From Bohemian Fields and Groves*, which got off to a lumbering start in the orchestra, whose roughshod playing of the peasant dance passages suggested that the conductor was reluctant to control them as tightly as such pictorial music needs, and let the tone-poem sounding unduly wild and woolly in consequence.

NOEL GOODWIN

Captivated by one chord

Despite my misgivings about minimal music, I succumbed totally to Arvo Pärt's *Tabula Rasa*. It was the climax of the London Sinfonietta's contribution to the South Bank's Emerging Light festival, which proved mostly to Pärt's words, which Paavo Järvi conducted with the ideal mix of elegance and exactitude. The material is unpromising in both the rugged Italian Baroque figurations of the first movement, *ludus*, and in the static second movement, *allegretto*, though Pärt writes for a wide pitch range that extends to the solo violins' highest humming har-

monies. Slow, quiet, isolated notes of the *arpeggio* are played by one solo violin while the "other" sustains each long, joined line that moves slowly.

It is a tough syntax of phrase, melody and rhythm developed over the centuries in Western music had never existed, that all we had was the common chord. In this sense, the work really does as it intends, though in writing it, in 1977, Pärt was primarily interested in wiping the slate of his

own musical language clean after experiencing serious creative crisis.

The mood of the work is infinitely contemplative but in this performance, with Rebecca Hirsch and Joan Afferton in the soloist's roles, it was also deeply moving. Hirsch in particular moved each note with an extraordinarily intense feeling of sorrow. The string orchestra accompaniment, occasionally punctured by the bell-like interjections of the prepared piano, was equally well done, with Enno Senti providing the immaculately controlled dying sounds of the work on double bass.

The encore, Pärt's *Sinners*, based on the same white-note-only principle, seemed slightly pale by comparison, as — for all Hirsch's advocacy — did the version made in 1992 for solo violin, strings and percussion of the ubiquitous *Frater*, originally composed in 1977. The last Bachian figurations of the solo violin, strings and percussion of the ubiquitous *Frater*, originally composed in 1977. The last Bachian figurations of the solo violin, strings and percussion of the ubiquitous *Frater*, originally composed in 1977. The last Bachian figurations of the solo violin, strings and percussion of the ubiquitous *Frater*, originally composed in 1977.

So it was pleasing to have something different in this concert. Pärt's *Frater* is a narrow one, that he enunciates the same message: using the same materials, over and over again.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Franck admission

THE last thing to be expected from the opening concert of a Fauré festival was a renewal of faith in César Franck. What achieved this reversal of current fashion was the quality of the partnership between Kathryn Stott, Ysa-Pascal Torricelli and the BBC Philharmonic. The *Symphonic Variations*, a score which notoriously sets all kinds of traps for the pianist and the conductor, was played here with breathtaking fearlessness and disarmingly persuasive emotional fervour.

As for the composer who was born 150 years ago in May and whose music is at the centre of "Fauré and the French Connection", he will have ample opportunity to demonstrate his genius as the festival continues. If the opening concert in the Free Trade Hall had to begin with the *gigue* *Prélude à l'opéra*, it should have gone on with something like the *Ballade* or the *Berceuse* rather than the very beautiful but also rather gloomy *Élégie*.

It is not at all easy to construct an orchestral programme with two soloists. This one did offer the kind of variety which sceptics claim not to find in French music. It did not take off, however.

LS/Jar
Queen Elizabeth Hall

under the interval and a few bars into the *Symphonic Variations*.

Yo-Yo Ma, who demonstrated his dedication to Kathryn Stott and her festival by joining the back desk of the BBC Philharmonic cellos in the second half, drew an admirably fine solo line through the *Élégie* and the *Saint-Saëns Concerto* in A minor, but not without stimulating doubts about the wisdom of the scoring for woodwind in the former work and the quality of the material in the latter.

The undisputed masterpiece of the evening was *Le Mer*. Anyone expecting a conventionally impressionist Debussy score from Torricelli and the BBC-PO would have been disappointed, though not disappointed, by this exhilarating, overcoloured and vividly outlined spectacle of fauvism. Who wants poetry when you can go and board?

GERALD LARNER

OPERA: Gilbert and Sullivan in the grand manner from WNO at Covent Garden, Beethoven frozen out in Paris

Serious chance of a towering success

The Yeomen of the Guard
Covent Garden

"IS IT serious or isn't it?" That was what bothered the *Punch* critic who reviewed the premiere of *The Yeomen of the Guard* in 1888. Or, as Phoebe Meryll demands in an all-too-typical bit of *Yeomen* dialogue: "Ods bodikins, what does it mean?" For better or worse, it is in *Yeomen* that Sir Arthur Sullivan's musical aspirations ("You ought to write a grand opera," Queen Victoria urged, "you would do it so well") are as nearly realised as they could be within the Savoy conventions.

The resulting blend of poignancy, patriotism and patter is, according to taste, either the greatest English opera between *Dido and Peter Grimes* (not, perhaps, as bold a claim as it at first appears) or the most unspeakable josh. Rodney Milnes, reviewing this Welsh National Opera production in *The Times* when it opened in Cardiff last December, was in no doubt where he stood: with its odd Tudor-bathos, its cloying sentimentality, and its surrender to a lazy formula, *Yeomen* was not only unpalatable but, nowadays at least, probably "unstageable" too.

Tim Hopkins's production, the first staging of a Gilbert and Sullivan opera to be seen at Covent Garden (where Sir Thomas Beecham once said he would have liked to do *Yeomen*), is certainly less confident than his inventive D'Oyly Carte *Gondoliers* might have led audiences to expect.

Visually there are moments of striking clarity, with Nicky Gillibrand's colourful costumes effectively deployed against the backdrop of Peter J. Davison's grey monumental sets. Otherwise, invention is confined to a pantomime obligato of mugging and mummery that makes for some hilarious moments but in the merits of music and text.

An outstanding cast showed that the most preposterous characters gain from being believed in. Donald Adams drew on his vast experience of this repertoire to prove that even a figure as sketchily



Outstanding form: Donald Adams and Felicity Palmer

drawn as Sergeant Meryll will reward the efforts of a committed actor. He and Felicity Palmer (in commanding form as a splendidly lovely Dame Carruthers) not only justified the inclusion of their "Rapture, rapture" duet but turned it into the highlight of the evening.

Richard Stuart brought a desperate dignity to the role of Jack Point, suggesting complexity rather than confusion in his depiction of this unhappy fool. Donald Maxwell was a magnificently stupid Shadbolt. Alwyn Mellors

spirited Elsie Maynard, Pamela Helen Stephens's engaging Phoebe and Neil Archer's passionate Fairfax took plausible care of the romantic interest.

Chorus and orchestra under Sir Charles Mackerras rose to the challenges of Sullivan's ambition, relishing both the scale and the detail of his scoring. In the Act II finale, in particular, this *Yeomen* achieved a grandeur and a pathos that were no less real for being utterly absurd.

IAN BRUNSKILL

Jailhouse mock

IT IS probably beyond the wit of man utterly to destroy Beethoven's opera, but the Berlin Staatsoper, on tour to President-tide (or not-tide) China's opera house, had a jolly good try last week.

Stéphane Braunschweig's production, recently travelled in the company's home house, Unter den Linden, is an ice-cold exercise in designer-chic: elegant, frigid, meaningless. The costumes are vaguely contemporary. The set, strongly reminiscent of Götz Friedrich's suppressed Bayreuth *Parzifal*, is the atrium of a ritzy American hotel on its side. Nothing remotely interesting happens within it.

Of actual direction of the singers there was no sign. Marzeline and Jacquino were ciphers. Pizarro a ranting melodramatic villain, and Rocco, that most enigmatic of creatures, a block of wood. The introduction to "Mir ist so wunderbar" served merely as accompaniment to black drapes rising to reveal six prisoners in their red designer-stiffls suspended frozen in mid-air, victims — as a passing wag put it — not of fascism, but fashion. Enough.

Even more depressing was the mannered conducting of Daniel Barenboim. Scarcely any bar proceeded at the same

Fidelio
Châtelet, Paris

tempo as that which came before or after; every phrase had something "done" to it by way of "expression": the music was seldom allowed to speak on its own terms. One example in the Prisoners' Chorus the word "Retraum" was dragged out of its context and its hushed musical line, and brandished *forte* at the audience — one of opera's great moments killed by self-regarding cleverness. The sound-world conjured up was that of one of Mahler's more hysterical symphonies, not that of an opera composed.

Poor singers: Catherine Malfitano, unfatteringly costumed, was plainly below her best and an announcement craving indulgence was made in the interval. With a proper conductor and some sort of production she could be as formidable a *Louise* as she is a *Salome* — her fervour and enigmatic inner strength guaranteed, as Michel René Page sang confidently, as Rocco and Johann Boga sang. For some time with astonishing ease, *Salome* was in silence.

RODNEY MILNES

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The world at their fingertips?

Lack of real work experience can be a handicap for many secretarial college leavers. Realising this, certain colleges arrange work placements for their students, either directly with employers or through a recruitment agency. These unpaid placements usually last from one to three weeks, although the Colchester Institute, for example, also operates a one-day-a-week scheme.

The benefits are great. Students learn time management and how to work in a team, says Jocelyn Baskley of St James's Consultancy, which arranges work experience for St James's students. They learn about electronic mail and operate equipment that colleges do not possess, as well as honing their secretarial skills.

All students at the Oxford and County Business College are offered work experience. The college makes local arrangements, but if students want to go to London, the college gets support from the Angela Mortimer consultancy.

Joy Thompson, the college director, says: "We advise the students about what to expect. We also talk to the company concerned to make sure it lines up something professionally. It works better if the company has created a situation in which the student can do some-

Joan Llewelyn Owens describes the advantage of a work placement

thing useful. If not, the student is an irritant to be coped with rather than someone who can fulfil objectives."

Angela Mortimer expects to place about 1,000 students this year. Amanda Fone, a director of the consultancy, explains that both students and firms are thoroughly prepared. Each student has an individual interview with a consultant in London or Birmingham. They will already have completed a short questionnaire, asking about the industry sector in which they want to work, what skills and personal qualities they can offer an employer, what they hope to gain from the experience and what are their long-term career plans.

Students return to the consultancy halfway through the placement to talk with the consultant, who monitors the placement throughout. Afterwards, both students and employers fill in reports.

Another consultancy with long-term experience of placing college

students is Elizabeth Hunt. Like Angela Mortimer, it advises employers and students on what to expect. Asked what advantage the employer expects from the exercise, Anne-Marie McTavish, college-leaver co-ordinator, says: "By the time the students are ready for this, they are good secretaries. So for a couple of weeks the employer has the use, at little cost, of someone extremely willing."

She says that some of the things the students have to do can be quite staggering. "Someone may enlist as a team secretary to help out a group of fairly junior managers, then a director's secretary falls ill and suddenly she finds herself working for two weeks at board level. Quite a few employers, we find, have been using this scheme almost as a working interview. When they come to recruit, they know how good are those students who are available on the market."

Queen's Business & Secretarial College regularly uses Angela Mortimer to place its students. However, Lucy Kerr, a geography graduate doing a two-term executive secretary diploma, found her own work placement at the Royal Geographical Society—in the exhibitions advisory centre, where she



Lucy Kerr, a geography graduate doing a secretarial course, found her own work placement at the Royal Geographical Society

assisted the information officer. She says: "During the two weeks, I have done a lot of audio-typing, done some database work and stocktaking, set up a filing system, answered the phone, made a lot of coffee and looked after visitors."

Miss Kerr's boss, Shane Winsor, says: "Such placements are very

useful to a charity like ourselves. The society can't afford to give me a full-time secretary, so this means I can get on with special projects for which I haven't enough time otherwise. As a result of Lucy's being here, I have been able to give personal replies instead of sending out standard letters. As a team, we

have reviewed health and safety in the office. Lucy has been willing to muck in where needed."

Such placements prove that students can cope in a real work environment, because the report received from the employer can be used as a reference. In Ms Kerr's case, the placement led to a job offer

before she had finished her course. While at the RGS she applied for the advertised post of secretary to the director. A week later, she learnt that she had been the successful candidate. She starts this month.

Details: Angela Mortimer 0171-287 7788, Elizabeth Hunt 0171-495 2321

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Experience of Word for Windows, minimum 60 wpm typing speed, plus audio and minute taking are all essential. Experience of working within the public sector is preferable.

Benefits include private medical cover and two performance-related lump-sum bonuses.

For an information pack please telephone 0171-937 8144 (24-hour answerphone) quoting Ref: BS60.

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PA/ SECRETARY

Managing Director of a busy, private property and building company requires a confident, well organised secretary. Must be able to work as part of the team and under pressure.

Please send CV, stating current salary, to:
Kensington Construction Ltd,
Sandford House,
10 Maynard Close,
Kings Road,
London SW6 2DB.

Secretary/PA to Finance & Commercial Director

Magic Pub Company Ltd is an exciting company operating nearly 200 pubs and hotels throughout England and Wales.

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Salary and terms are negotiable and will not be a restriction.

Please write with a full CV to: Gillian Cole, Personnel Manager, The Magic Pub Company Ltd, Corbie House, 48-54 London Road, Brixton, London SW9 8JQ. Middles: TW18 4BQ.

IN SEARCH OF EXCELLENCE £20-23,000 + package

A high profile 1:1 Executive PA role has arisen within this International Co. Based in Mayfair. The job involves front line liaison with the top people from the world's top co's. Hence, you should have 1st class PA & communication skills, be supremely organised & professional with a high standard of presentation. If you are serious about your career & have experience of working within a Top 100 Company. Age 25-35.

Call Anderson Hoare (Rec Cons) 0171 824 8821

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International Co. looking for graduates with experience in USA and Far East, and strong sales/ marketing training in house. They require graduates with perfect grammar, spelling and word processing skills. Salary of £15K (graduate) to £20K (experienced) is considered when fully trained. Applicants with no relevant work experience for graduate roles will be considered. Tel 0171 439 1188 or Fax CV: 0171 744 3497 Gale Associates (Rec Cons)

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA/SECRETARY

£17,500

required for Director of Victoria based Property Company. We are looking for a mature, responsible PA to assist this Director in the smooth running of this very busy department.

Please write, enclosing CV and stating current salary to:
Miss Carmen Giano, English & Overseas Properties plc, 29 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6NF

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PA, 25+ with a 'City' background, that is banking or financial, is required for 3 directors based in stunning new offices in Victoria. You need to be able to hold your own, nicely, coping with 3 different personalities and there is a great future atmosphere. The salary is £20,000 - £21,500 + those free lunches + bonuses; shorthand and Windows experience essential.

LYN CECIL 0171 439 7001

SECRETARIES PLUS

Handwritten note in Arabic script.

The new terrestrial channel should appeal to the untapped majority — those viewers who have not yet signed up for extra choice

Come in, channel number five

Because it's there. That is the only answer to "Why do we need a Channel 5?" Channel 5, for which applications are due at the Independent Television Commission on Tuesday, is the last terrestrial channel available on existing equipment. This, overwhelming advantage is easily overlooked amid the well-publicised drawbacks. For example:

- That only 70 per cent of the British viewing homes will be able to receive it. But that's 70 per cent of 22 million, making 15 million, a mass audience by any measure.
- That millions of video recorders and satellite dishes will need re-tuning in areas where these use frequencies to be occupied by Channel 5. But the expense and bother of re-tuning has not seemed to deter applicants for the channel.
- That conventional (or analogue) television is becoming obsolete, with 500-channel digital television just around the corner. But to get digital television you will need new equipment. Channel 5 will be there

free from the box in the corner. • That anybody who wants extra choice in channels can buy it now, as proven by the surging popularity of cable and satellite. But the number of cable and satellite homes is still small — 4.2 million — and the audience that an advertiser can reach on any single channel is smaller still. Young & Rubicam reports that Sky One, the most popular satellite channel, took only 4.8 per cent of viewing in all satellite homes in January.

The plan is that Channel 5 will reach the untapped majority: those who own no television, indifference or who have no bother to sign up for extra choice. And, among the viewers, who can put hand on heart and swear that four channels is always enough. Any day's television times quickly reveal a lacuna when there is nothing on.



BRENDA MADDOX

hours of the morning) will have to be original. They must also include specified amounts of news, current affairs, children's programmes and religion.

What they will not be obliged to include is the ingredient most conspicuously absent in the British television mix: local television. Once upon a time it seemed like a good idea that a fifth terrestrial channel be developed as a network of city-based television stations providing intensive local coverage and an opportunity for local advertising for people such as car dealers, estate agents and supermarkets whose services are too focused on a single area to warrant advertising on regional television.

But that hope faded with experience. Local television is no crowd-puller. And the primary duty of any Channel 5 licence winner will be to get its money back. Blame the Broadcasting Act of 1990 once again. Once again a major national television licence is to go to the highest bidder, once all the commitments to worthiness are met. In other words, applicants for Channel 5 — like those for ITV a few years ago — are being asked

to do well by doing good. Some potential investors have already walked away in horror, muttering that the costs will be more than double the £200 million being talked about. The most desirable audience — the well-heeled, young affluent — will not be won by game shows and unheated-of movies. Blame the Broadcasting Act, too, for the rules governing cross-media ownership. These set different thresholds for those with a stake in satellite channels (such as Rupert Murdoch of News International, with its 40 per cent share of BSkyB) and those (such as Michael Green of Carlton-Central) whose heavy investment is in ITV's terrestrial channels. The ITC itself has been much criticised for preparing to hand out a new channel under the old rules on cross-media ownership when new rules are on their way.

Over to Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary. He knows what changes his department has in store: major or minor. If he wants to shout "Stop!" or "Slow down!" to the ITC, he has only to do so. Otherwise, the ITC has no choice but to continue on the tram tracks laid down.

If the prize in the end does go to BSkyB, however, the losers might console themselves that Britain's biggest satellite purveyor will be drawn into investing against itself. Viewers won for Channel 5 are viewers lost to cable-satellite.

For my part, I'll be waiting to read how the winner proposes to handle that awkward retaining assignment. When at LWT, Greg Dyke, now at Pearson, used to do a nice impersonation of the bloke knocking at the pensioner's door: "I'm from Channel Foive. Got to return your video. I'll just need to take it down to the van for a minute."



Reuters, renowned for its conservatism, is said to need David Kogan's powers of persuasion and his ability to move fast on his feet

Mr Reuters — the latest

Alexandra Frean reports on the impressive rise of the fast-moving new managing director of Reuters Television

What would Baron Julius de Reuter, entrepreneur, risk-taker, pioneer of the telegraphic communication, and founder, in 1851, of the Reuters news agency, make of David Kogan, enfant terrible of the international television news industry who was promoted to managing director of Reuters Television last month?

He might well be the kind of man of whom the Baron would have approved. Fortright, bright, fast-talking, hyperactive, dedicated, and showing no signs of self-doubt, Kogan has forged an unconventional career path, which has landed him one of the leading jobs in international television at the age of 37.

Colleagues who worked with him at Visnews in the 1980s, the London-based international television news agency which Kogan joined as managing editor in 1988 and which was bought by Reuters in 1992, are not surprised by his rapid rise. They say he is intelligent and courageous, although occasionally prone to unnecessary outbursts.

Kogan, who is also Reuters's director of media services in Britain and Ireland, can hardly believe he is now, officially, "a suit". He says: "I have to keep repeating 100 times a

day, 'I must behave like a managing director'."

His appointment last month came swiftly after Reuters had signed two news supply deals, with Fox Broadcasting, the American broadcaster controlled by The News Corporation, and with Sky News, the 24-hour satellite news channel part-owned by News Corp's European arm, the owner of The Times.

The deals cemented Reuters's position as a leading television news agency, and gave it a springboard for further expansion. The company is now well positioned to bid for a news supply deal with News Corp's Star TV station in Asia. It now also has a platform from which to become a major player in the UK, for example, by winning the contract to provide news to Channel 5, the proposed terrestrial channel now being advertised. That could open up the possibility of Reuters Television extending to the contract to supply news to ITV, currently held by ITN, in which Holdings Reuters plc has an 18 per cent stake. (At present, though, there is a blocking agreement in Reuters

Holding equity agreement with ITN designed to prevent this from happening.)

Kogan's immediate tasks are to build up the Fox and Sky News services and to continue servicing Reuters Television's rapidly growing range of clients. As well as providing footage for ITN, the

Aim to hit the moving targets fast and hard

BBC, GMTV and Sky and for hundreds of broadcasters worldwide, it makes bespoke TV programmes. These include the daily Reuters News Hour on GMTV, two daily, live half-hour business programmes for Videotron, a cable company, business bulletins for Sky, a weekly Russian-language current-affairs programme and a business programme for Hungarian television. It also produces an entertainment news show, drawing on its Los Angeles bureau's Hollywood contacts

but produced in London. Kogan sees the company's expansion as a stepped process in which each core product can be used for building a new service. "With RFTV," he says, "we took the television infrastructure and the Reuters terminals used by forex dealers and combined them. From that, we developed our business programming in the UK for Videotron."

Reuters Television also has plenty of opportunities, Kogan says, to cross-fertilise with other Reuters product lines with London Radio, the 24-hour local news station, which it took over last year. Reuters observers believe that Reuters, which is renowned for its conservatism, desperately needs Kogan's powers of persuasion and his ability to move fast on his feet. Some tentatively suggest that his experience at the Beeb combined with his knowledge of raw commercialism, gleaned from Visnews and Reuters, mark him out as a possible future BBC Director-General.

Kogan is uncharacteristically coy about future developments. "We keep an eye on the moving target of the markets

of six to 18 months from now," he says. "But what I won't do is say: 'We think such and such will be very big next year'. I want to keep enough options open so that we can hit moving targets very fast and very hard when the time is right. The Sky and Fox relationships did not come about after years of planning. We had to move quickly."

Kogan dismisses suggestions that the company's client base expands, conflicts of interest are bound to arise among customers. Yet he recognises that the marketplace is changing rapidly. Because more and more broadcasters, such as the BBC, now want to export their branded products around the world, they are increasingly starting to resemble agencies, he says, and the agencies are having to become more like broadcasters.

His immediate aim is to use the enormous Reuters infrastructure (128 bureaux, of which 70 are "television-capable") to take on the broadcasters on their own territory by producing more tailor-made reporter-led services for clients. "There will," he says, "be Reuters faces and voices appearing on more and more outlets around the world."

A famous charge card is broadening its appeal

Amex begins battle for the big wallets



Amex fighting for a new market

ON THE surface, Amex's launch of a new credit card last week was just another of many recent initiatives in an already overcrowded market. But behind the scenes, it marks a return from the brink for one of the world's most famous financial-services brands — and the opening shot in a battle

for the wallets of the nation's affluent. If you are well-heeled and in a restaurant or shop peering at an array of plastic pieces in your cardholder, Amex wants to be the card that you choose.

Five years ago, there was less chance of that happening. Amex was unravelling. Global credit-card operators such as Visa and Mastercard were offering almost the same convenience at a lower price, and retailers were driving down merchant fees (the cut they give a card operator every time a consumer uses a card to buy something in their shops). Many outlets stopped accepting Amex altogether.

In addition, a brand that had long marketed itself rather arrogantly on the basis of its exclusivity found its image out of tune with the recessionary times. Legendary advertising slogans such as "Don't leave home without it" and "That'll do nicely" had become the butt of comedians' jokes.

Russ Shaw, Amex's head of brand management, says: "Class and privilege no longer command such a premium. Instead of buying status, people want to feel they've made a smart choice."

Amex is returning to the fray. Costs have been slashed. So have merchant fees charges. The advertising strategy has been changed to focus on people such as Anita Roddick, Rocco Forte and Terence Conran, who have reputations as smart innovators offering value-for-money services.

And Amex, instead of presenting its card as one of the jetsetters' use mainly for their spending on travel and entertainment, is going head-on against the UK's big two, Barclaycard and Access. John Crewe, the president of Amex's European consumer services division, says: "We have a mission to capture 100 per cent of the plastic spending of these households." To do that, he needs to offer a credit card as well as the charge card that his well-off clientele traditionally uses.

The big two have a lot of ad-

them, it includes offers designed especially for them — "Next time you dine at so and so, the wine's on us" sort of thing.

Next step, says Mr Crewe, is "closed loop marketing", whereby Amex becomes the crucial information link between retailers and consumers. Retailers can use the Amex database to find out who their most prized customers are. They can use that information to make offers to keep them coming back.

Soon, says Mr Crewe, Amex will be launching a "whole stream of new products" aimed at luring Britain's jetsetting elite into its fold. Meanwhile, the retailer customer base is being expanded. Sainsbury, for example, is currently testing Amex for use at its checkouts.

Already, Amex's "re-engineered" marketing means that new card uptake is up 30 per cent on last year, claims Mr Crewe. Responses to the credit card launch will accelerate Amex's growth. If it is successful, rival operators will soon find Amex creaming off the most profitable slice of their business. And then the battle for the loyalty of Britain's better-off consumers will become hot indeed.

ALAN MITCHELL

MILLENNIUM LECTURE SERIES

THE TIMES DEMOS

How are we to live?

Ethics in an age of self-interest — by Peter Singer



PETER SINGER, best known for his book *Animal Liberation: A New Ethics for Our Treatment of Animals*, is one of the world's leading ethical philosophers. In his third Times/Demos Millennium lecture, he will speak about his latest book — *How Are We to Live? — Ethics in an age of self-interest* — explaining what he means by ethics and the impact that ethical choices have upon our own quality of life. Singer argues that people who take an ethical approach to life can find a deeper satisfaction in what they are doing than those people whose goals are narrower and more self-centred. In his forthcoming lecture, he will show that living a more ethical life can bring about far-reaching changes to one's life.

The lecture will be held on Tuesday, May 2 1995 at 7.30pm at Church House Conference Centre, Great Smith Street, Westminster SW1. Tickets, priced £10 (£7.50 concessions), are available by completing the coupon below and returning it to Joanne Oliver, Town House Publicity, 45 Islington Park Street, London N1 1QB.

Please send me ticket(s) at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for the Times/Demos Millennium lecture, to be held at Church House Conference Centre, Great Smith Street, Westminster SW1 on Tuesday, May 2 1995, 7.30pm.

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The news topped the latest TV ratings chart, while sales of national newspapers are buoyed up by the price war

THE BBC may be regretting its decision to screen the *Panorama* interview with John Major on April 3, just before the Scottish local elections. This led to a ban in Scotland, and the programme attracted 4.2 million viewers — 250,000 below the recent average, Alexandra Frean writes.

ITN leads the field

ITN's 20.50 news on Saturday April 8 tops our chart, attracting 9.6 million viewers. Many no doubt switched on to

watch the feature-film-length episode of *Cracker*, afterwards. The series won three awards at the Bafta ceremony last Sunday.

The pulling power of David Attenborough's *Wildlife on One* series brought his rural fox documentary, on April 6, 9.5 million viewers.

AFTER the first three months of 1995, sales of national newspapers are still settled into the pattern set since the Fleet Street price war started nearly two years ago, Brian MacArthur writes.

Overall sales in March were up for the second year in succession and at their highest since 1991 — but only the success of the papers that have reduced their prices is keeping sales buoyant.

Six of the eight papers that improved sales in a year ago — *The Times*, *The Sun*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The People*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Independent* and the *FT* — have cut their prices in some way.

The battle between the Mail and Express groups is still being won by the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday*. Over the past five years, the *Daily Mail* has increased sales by 107,000 against a drop of 257,000 for the *Daily Express*. On Sundays, the Mail is up by 54,000, compared with a drop of 268,000 for the *Sunday*

Price cuts hold sales

Express, a pattern which is continuing.

At the Mirror Group, after the initial shock of the price war launched in summer 1993, sales of the *Daily Mirror* (about 2.5 million) and *The Independent* (200,000) appear to be stabilising.

The *Guardian*, which refused to join the price war and sells at 45p, lost only 2,000 copies on a year ago but *The Observer* has lost more sales than *The Independent* on Sunday over the past year.

National dailies are still selling nearly 14.5 million copies a day, with an extra 1.3 million copies sold on Sundays. The broadsheets are holding sales better than the tabloids, with daily sales up nearly 10 per cent on a year ago and Sunday broadsheets up by nearly 3 per cent.

WINNERS AND LOSERS

	National dailies	National dailies	% +/ -	Market share
	Avg daily sale	Compared with March 1994		
Daily Telegraph	1,051,230	80,559	8.05%	7.79%
The Times	651,638	150,884	23.16%	4.82%
The Guardian	400,821	42,140	10.53%	2.93%
Sunday Times	302,528	1,632	0.54%	2.24%
The Independent	290,360	13,523	4.69%	2.12%
Middle				
Daily Mail	1,784,264	55,220	3.09%	13.12%
Daily Express	1,292,944	36,628	2.83%	9.46%
Today	569,459	27,149	4.77%	4.02%
Evening				
The Sun	4,194,571	115,427	2.87%	30.22%
Daily Mirror	2,476,746	25,687	1.05%	18.10%
The Star	741,550	-14,720	-1.97%	5.42%

April 3 to 9, 1995							
	Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Name	Aud. (m)
1	News	Sat 8	20.50	ITV	ITN	News	9.6
2	Wildlife on One	Thu 6	20.01	BBC1	BBC	Natural History Unit	9.5
3	500	Fri 7	21.39	BBC1	BBC	Footage (British)	8.7
4	News At Ten	Tue 4	22.01	ITV	ITN	News	7.7
5	Nine O'Clock News	Thu 8	21.00	BBC1	BBC	News & Current Affairs	7.4
6	News and Weather	Sun 9	20.50	BBC1	BBC	News & Current Affairs	7.3
7	News/Spot/Weather	Sat 8	20.56	BBC1	BBC	News & Current Affairs	6.8
8	Six O'Clock News	Thu 4	18.00	BBC1	BBC	News & Current Affairs	6.6
9	Points of View	Wed 5	20.49	BBC1	BBC	Consumer Affairs	5.6
10	World in Action	Mon 5	20.51	ITV	Real Life Productions	Consumer Affairs	5.2
11	Watchdog	Wed 5	19.30	BBC1	BBC	News	5.2
12	Early Evening News	Wed 5	17.40	ITV	ITN	News	5.2
13	S-D	Tue 4	10.22	ITV	Yorkshire Television	Documentary	4.3
14	Panorama: John Major	Mon 3	21.34	BBC1	BBC	Current Affairs	4.0
15	Weekend First	Tue 5	22.42	ITV	Yorkshire Television	Documentary	4.0
16	Q&A: Sleeping at the	Thu 4	21.32	BBC1	BBC	Documentary	3.9
17	Tomorrow's World	Fri 7	19.26	BBC1	BBC	Documentary	3.5
18	Undercover Britain	Mon 3	21.38	CH4	Harlequin Productions	Social Action	3.5
19	One O'Clock News	Mon 8	13.00	BBC1	BBC	News & Current Affairs	3.3
20	Wildlife: Kelpfish Big Foot	Sun 9	19.25	BBC2	BBC	Documentary	3.3

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Pick your Fantasy First XI and win £10,000

THIS is your last chance to show that you can give Raymond Illingworth and the England selectors a run for their money in the cricket season that steps up a gear tomorrow with the start of the Britannia Assurance County Championship. You could win £10,000, the top prize for the overall winner, or our weekly prize of £250. Each week we will publish the leading 100 entries.

In association with Company Barclaycard, the United Kingdom's leading corporate charge card, we have renewed our exclusive arrangement with the Test and County Cricket Board to present The Times Fantasy First XI. The

great strengths of last year's game, First Class XI, have been preserved. It is up to you to select the team you think will sweep the board. Every first-class run your players score and every first-class wicket they take will count towards your total. There are no artificial additives, no handicaps, no ratings, no transfer fees, just a test of your selection skills and your eye for first-class talent.

But we have introduced some big improvements. We have simplified the rules and introduced the chance to change your team during the season.

We have added the West Indies touring party to our list

of overseas players, making the likes of Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams, Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose available for selection. We have dispensed with the captains' category and replaced the reserve system with a transfer season.

Starting on May 4, we will carry the full list of players' first-class scores and the names of the top 100 entries every Thursday, but, for the first time, we are also providing a Fantasy First XI hotline, so you can check your team's progress when it suits you.

This year, there is a new service designed to enable groups of players at home or at work to measure their selection skills against each

other by forming a mini-league. You will also be able to enter an office team and try to win the Company Barclaycard Team League. Full details are published below.

The rules are simple:

- 1) Select five batsmen.
- 2) Select one all-rounder.
- 3) Select one wicketkeeper.
- 4) Select four bowlers.
- 5) Your Fantasy First XI must include one (and no more than one) overseas player.
- 6) Your Fantasy First XI must

include one (and no more than one) rising star.

All players must be selected according to the categories published here (for example a player such as Graeme Hick, listed here as an all-rounder, may only be selected as an all-rounder, not as a batsman; Phillip DeFreitas is listed here as an all-rounder — he may not be selected as a bowler).

There will be a seven-day transfer season (July 12-18) during which you will be able

to change up to four members of your team, although your final XI must still conform to the six rules above. You do not have to change your team at all, but, if you choose to, you will receive the points scored by your original selection up to July 12 and those scored by the revised selection from the moment first-class play resumes on July 18.

Apart from these transfers, no changes will be allowed. No substitutions can be made, so it is worth bearing in mind the injury records of the players available. If a player is not playing first-class cricket, then he is not scoring in the Fantasy First XI.

Scoring: you score according

to the performance of your players. For every run each of your XI scores, you will receive one point. For each wicket they take, you will receive 20 points. For each dismissal (catch or stumping) your wicketkeeper makes, you will receive 20 points. Catches taken by other fielders will not count. The object of the game is to select the team which will score the most points in the course of the season.

In the event of a tie, the scores of the rising star will be decisive. If another tie-break is necessary, its form will be decided by The Times Fantasy First XI panel.

Features: The Times Fantasy First XI season runs from

April 13 until September 18 but the deadline for telephone entries is noon tomorrow. Postal entries must also be received by tomorrow. Only first-class matches, as designated by the Test and County Cricket Board, throughout the season (including those played before the closing date for entries to this competition) will count.

As last year, you can enter by phone or by post. Phone calls will be charged at 39p per minute plus 49p per minute at other times. Please note that postal entries must be accompanied by a fee of £2.50, and cheques should be made payable to The Times Fantasy First XI.

Compete against your colleagues — and with them

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE selector of the Fantasy First XI team which scores the most points each week will win £250 and the team which stands atop the Fantasy First XI standings at the end of the season will take our top prize of £10,000.

But this year, for the first time, you can compete directly with colleagues at work or friends and family at home. In our new Fantasy First XI Mini Leagues, all you have to do is find three people who have entered Fantasy First XI (or persuade them to enter before the closing deadline tomorrow) and then choose a manager.

The team manager can then submit to us the four Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) and we will provide regular updated Mini League tables throughout the season. Each month, notification will be sent to the designated manager showing the positions of all four members of the Mini League relative to each other. At the end of the season you will receive a certificate to remind you of your final positions. But you will not only be competing against each other — you will also be

competing as a team. The Mini League whose four members produce the highest aggregate score over the whole season will win a prize of £1,000.

The second competition, the Company Barclaycard Team League, is only open to teams made up of members of the same company or office and runs over a shorter period.



The procedure is the same as above, only you must include your company name in the team name. You may add a department or branch name if you like and if you work for a large organisation you might like to give your team a distinctive title to avoid duplication. There is no limit on the length of team names but the shorter, the better and longer

ones will have to be abbreviated should they qualify for publication in The Times.

We will provide you with details of the relative standings in your league and the aggregate score of all four members will count towards the Company Barclaycard Team League. Once a month we will publish a list showing the top 10 companies in the Company Barclaycard Team League. Please note that this league finishes on August 14 and the winners will receive their prize at the Oval as guests of Company Barclaycard later that month.

To cover administration costs we are charging an entry fee of £2. This applies to both the Mini Leagues and the Company Barclaycard Team League. Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to The Times Fantasy First XI. Please remember that in order to make use of the mini-league service, you must enter the main game before tomorrow in order to receive your PIN.

All you have to do is fill in the coupon. Don't forget to tick the box showing whether you are entering the Mini Leagues or the Company Barclaycard Team League.

Coupons and payment should be sent to The Mini League, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 0NS. If you are entering the Company Barclaycard Team League, please mark this on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. The closing date for receipt of the coupons is Tuesday May 9 and the first bulletins will go out on approximately June 1.

There are only three days left if you want to enter Fantasy First XI. Postal entries must arrive by the close of business on Thursday. The telephone lines are open until noon that same day but don't delay too long. With only three days left, the lines are already growing busy.

Remember if your first choice players are affected by injuries or loss of form, there will be nothing you can do about replacing them until the transfer period in mid-July. All first-class runs scored and wickets taken count towards your score, including those in matches played before the closing date.

HEATSEAL MI
To enter by phone
call 089
70056

Calls cost 39p a minute plus 49p at other times. Calls last around 6 minutes.

BATS MEN	
Code	Name
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

ALL-ROUNDER	
Code	Name
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

WICKETKEEPER	
Code	Name
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

BOWLERS	
Code	Name
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

TEAM NAME

Up to 18 characters

Your Personal Identification Number

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

AGE IF UNDER 18

TELEPHONE NO

Send your entries to: Times Fantasy First XI
Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 0NS

SELECT A TEAM TO BEAT THE BEST

There are six basic rules:

- 1) You must select five batsmen.
- 2) You must select one all-rounder.
- 3) You must select one wicketkeeper.
- 4) You must select four bowlers.
- 5) Your XI must include one overseas player (and no more than one).
- 6) Your XI must include one rising star (and no more than one).

① In this section please enter the five batsmen you have selected from the list below. You may only tick players listed (001-123) as batsmen; you may pick any number of players from any code but remember you may only select one overseas player and one rising star in your whole team. Even if your batsmen make and every wicket they take will count towards your team's total.

② Please enter your selected all-rounder, who must be drawn from players listed (124-165) in this section.

③ Your wicketkeeper must be drawn from players listed (166-185) in this section. You may only select one wicketkeeper in your whole team. Even if your wicketkeeper makes and every wicket they take will count towards your team's total.

④ In this section please enter the four bowlers you have selected from the list below. You may only tick players listed (186-287) as bowlers. Again, remember you may only select one overseas player and one rising star in your whole team. Even if your bowlers take and every run they make will count towards your total.

Scoring
For every run each of your XI scores, you will receive one point. For each wicket they take, you will receive 20 points. For each dismissal (catch or stumping) your wicketkeeper makes, you will receive 20 points. Catches taken by other fielders will not count. The object of the game is to select the team which will score the most points in the course of the season.

Overseas players
You must include in your team one player from each of these two categories:

- Overseas players
- 001: C J Adams (Derbyshire)
 - 002: J C Adams (West Indies)
 - 003: G E Archer (Nottinghamshire)
 - 004: M L Arthur (West Indies)
 - 005: Aal Den (Warwickshire)
 - 006: M A Atherton (Lancashire)
 - 007: C W J Athey (Sussex)
 - 008: R J Bailey (Northamptonshire)
 - 009: K J Barnett (Derbyshire)
 - 010: M R Benson (Kent)
 - 011: M G Berran (Sussex)
 - 012: D J Bicknell (Yorkshire)
 - 013: T J Boon (Lancashire)
 - 014: P D Bowler (Somerset)
 - 015: J E Briers (Lancashire)
 - 016: A D Brown (Sussex)
 - 017: D Bryce (Nottinghamshire)
 - 018: S L Campbell (West Indies)
 - 019: J D Carr (Middlesex)
 - 020: S Chandrasekhar (West Indies)
 - 021: M Church (Worcestershire)
 - 022: P A Collyer (Gloucestershire)
 - 023: G R Cowdrey (Kent)
 - 024: J P Crawley (Lancashire)
 - 025: W J Croun (Lancashire)
 - 026: D J Cullinan (Derbyshire)
 - 027: J A Daley (Durham)
 - 028: R J Dawson (Gloucestershire)
 - 029: P A de Silva (Kent)
 - 030: M P Devenant (Nottinghamshire)
 - 031: M P Devenant (Lancashire)
 - 032: N H Farbridge (Lancashire)
 - 033: A Fordham (Northamptonshire)
 - 034: J E R Gatten (Lancashire)
 - 035: M W Gatten (Middlesex)
 - 036: G A Gooch (Essex)
 - 037: A P Grayson (Yorkshire)
 - 038: J W Hall (Sussex)
 - 039: K Greenfield (Sussex)
 - 040: T H Hancock (Gloucestershire)
 - 041: R J Haden (Somerset)
 - 042: A N Hayman (Somerset)
 - 043: G R Haynes (Nottinghamshire)
 - 044: D L Harty (Gloucestershire)
 - 045: G D Hodgson (Gloucestershire)
 - 046: A J Hollister (Sussex)
 - 047: M Hussain (Essex)
 - 048: S Hutton (Durham)
 - 049: S P James (Gloucestershire)
 - 050: P Johnson (Nottinghamshire)
 - 051: M Keach (Hampshire)
 - 052: S A Kellner (Yorkshire)
 - 053: N V Knight (Warwickshire)
 - 054: N V Knight (Warwickshire)
 - 055: B C Lara (West Indies)
 - 056: M N Lathwell (Somerset)
 - 057: W Larkins (Durham)

How to enter by phone or post

THE 24-hour telephone lines close at noon tomorrow, the day when the Britannia Assurance County Championship begins. Runs scored and wickets taken in the first-class games before tomorrow will count in Fantasy First XI. But beware the last-minute rush.

When you have selected your team, check what type of telephone you are using. You must have a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You cannot enter using a rotary dial or "pulse" telephone. Once you have found a Touch-tone telephone, you can enter by dialling 089 70056.

Then follow the step-by-step instructions. The recorded message will ask you to key in the full set of selections (player reference numbers) for each of your 11 chosen players in the following order: the five batsmen, the all-rounder, the wicketkeeper, the bowlers.

Make sure you have picked one overseas player and one rising star in your team. An incorrect entry will be void.

You will then be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 18 characters) and to record your name, address, postcode and daytime phone number. Finally, you will be asked to enter your Personal Identification Number (PIN). Please be patient. You have plenty of time.

Calls cost 39p per minute plus 49p per minute at other times. Each call will last about six minutes.

Competitors may give their team any name of up to 18 characters. If a name is considered to be in poor taste by the panel, or if that name has been taken, the competitor's surname will be used.

Readers wishing to enter by post should complete their Fantasy First XI card and send it (photocopies are not acceptable) with a cheque or postal order for £2.50 to The Times Fantasy First XI, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 0NS, to arrive by tomorrow. Cheques should be made payable to The Times Fantasy First XI.

All entries, whether by telephone or post, will be acknowledged. Telephone entry enquiries should be made to BroadSystems on 0171 294 5000; registration queries should be made direct to BroadSystems on 0171 294 5000. In both cases quoting The Times Fantasy First XI.

FULL LIST OF FANTASY FIRST XI PLAYERS

Batsmen (001-123)

- 001: C J Adams (Derbyshire)
- 002: J C Adams (West Indies)
- 003: G E Archer (Nottinghamshire)
- 004: M L Arthur (West Indies)
- 005: Aal Den (Warwickshire)
- 006: M A Atherton (Lancashire)
- 007: C W J Athey (Sussex)
- 008: R J Bailey (Northamptonshire)
- 009: K J Barnett (Derbyshire)
- 010: M R Benson (Kent)
- 011: M G Berran (Sussex)
- 012: D J Bicknell (Yorkshire)
- 013: T J Boon (Lancashire)
- 014: P D Bowler (Somerset)
- 015: J E Briers (Lancashire)
- 016: A D Brown (Sussex)
- 017: D Bryce (Nottinghamshire)
- 018: S L Campbell (West Indies)
- 019: J D Carr (Middlesex)
- 020: S Chandrasekhar (West Indies)
- 021: M Church (Worcestershire)
- 022: P A Collyer (Gloucestershire)
- 023: G R Cowdrey (Kent)
- 024: J P Crawley (Lancashire)
- 025: W J Croun (Lancashire)
- 026: D J Cullinan (Derbyshire)
- 027: J A Daley (Durham)
- 028: R J Dawson (Gloucestershire)
- 029: P A de Silva (Kent)
- 030: M P Devenant (Nottinghamshire)
- 031: M P Devenant (Lancashire)
- 032: N H Farbridge (Lancashire)
- 033: A Fordham (Northamptonshire)
- 034: J E R Gatten (Lancashire)
- 035: M W Gatten (Middlesex)
- 036: G A Gooch (Essex)
- 037: A P Grayson (Yorkshire)
- 038: J W Hall (Sussex)
- 039: K Greenfield (Sussex)
- 040: T H Hancock (Gloucestershire)
- 041: R J Haden (Somerset)
- 042: A N Hayman (Somerset)
- 043: G R Haynes (Nottinghamshire)
- 044: D L Harty (Gloucestershire)
- 045: G D Hodgson (Gloucestershire)
- 046: A J Hollister (Sussex)
- 047: M Hussain (Essex)
- 048: S Hutton (Durham)
- 049: S P James (Gloucestershire)
- 050: P Johnson (Nottinghamshire)
- 051: M Keach (Hampshire)
- 052: S A Kellner (Yorkshire)
- 053: N V Knight (Warwickshire)
- 054: N V Knight (Warwickshire)
- 055: B C Lara (West Indies)
- 056: M N Lathwell (Somerset)
- 057: W Larkins (Durham)

All-rounders (124-165)

- 124: M W Athey (Gloucestershire)
- 125: D J Austin (Lancashire)
- 126: P J Baines (Durham)
- 127: M A Butler (Sussex)
- 128: C C Cairns (Nottinghamshire)
- 129: R B Croft (Gloucestershire)
- 130: K M Curran (Northamptonshire)
- 131: A Dale (Gloucestershire)
- 132: P J DeFreitas (Derbyshire)
- 133: S C Ebdon (Somerset)
- 134: M J Evans (Nottinghamshire)
- 135: M V Fleming (Kent)
- 136: O D Gibson (Gloucestershire)
- 137: G H Hick (Gloucestershire)
- 138: C J Hooper (West Indies)
- 139: K D James (Hampshire)
- 140: R C Jones (Sussex)
- 141: C J Keane (Gloucestershire)
- 142: S R Lampitt (Worcestershire)
- 143: C Lewis (Nottinghamshire)
- 144: G W Miles (Nottinghamshire)
- 145: M J Munn (Somerset)
- 146: D J Nash (Middlesex)
- 147: A J Pender (Northamptonshire)
- 148: M Pringle (Durham)
- 149: D A Reeve (Warwickshire)
- 150: G D Rose (Somerset)
- 151: A W Smith (Sussex)
- 152: N K Smith (Warwickshire)
- 153: P A Smith (Warwickshire)
- 154: F J Stephenson (Northamptonshire)
- 155: J P Stephenson (Hampshire)
- 156: K J Topley (Worcestershire)
- 157: S D Ure (Hampshire)
- 158: W A Watson (Lancashire)
- 159: M Wainwright (Lancashire)
- 160: G Welch (Warwickshire)
- 161: C M Wells (Derbyshire)
- 162: V J Wells (Lancashire)
- 163: R H White (Gloucestershire)
- 164: C White (Yorkshire)

Bowlers (186-287)

- 186: J A Afford (Nottinghamshire)
- 187: U A Ake (Nottinghamshire)
- 188: C E L. Ambrose (West Indies)
- 189: S L. Ambrose (West Indies)
- 190: M J Bailey (Gloucestershire)
- 191: A A Barnett (Lancashire)
- 192: R R Barwell (Gloucestershire)
- 193: S J Bass (Derbyshire)
- 194: J D Barty (Somerset)
- 195: E J Benjamin (Sussex)
- 196: K G Benjamin (West Indies)
- 197: W K Benjamin (West Indies)
- 198: M P Bicknell (Sussex)
- 199: J Boon (Durham)
- 200: N B Boul (Hampshire)
- 201: J E Brimley (Worcestershire)
- 202: M Broadhurst (Nottinghamshire)
- 203: S J E Brown (Durham)
- 204: A R Caddick (Somerset)
- 205: G Chaplin (Lancashire)
- 206: J H Childs (Essex)
- 207: A A Connor (Hampshire)
- 208: N G Cook (Northamptonshire)
- 209: K E Cooper (Gloucestershire)
- 210: D M Cousins (Essex)
- 211: A C Cowans (Hampshire)
- 212: D M Cox (Durham)
- 213: P P Davis (Worcestershire)
- 214: M Dimes (Somerset)
- 215: A Donald (Worcestershire)
- 216: M Easman (Kent)
- 217: J E Embury (Middlesex)
- 218: A J Foster (Northamptonshire)
- 219: R G France (Middlesex)
- 220: S H Giddins (Sussex)
- 221: D Gough (Yorkshire)
- 222: P A Griffin (Derbyshire)
- 223: P Hatters (Yorkshire)
- 224: D W Headley (Kent)
- 225: E E Hemmings (Sussex)
- 226: E Hindson (Nottinghamshire)

Wicketkeepers (166-185)

- 166: A N Ayrles (Hampshire)
- 167: R J Baker (Yorkshire)
- 168: R A Brown (Middlesex)
- 169: M A Garmham (Essex)
- 170: K L Hogg (Lancashire)
- 171: G J Kearsy (Sussex)

Overseas players

- 220: J G Hughes (Northamptonshire)
- 221: A P Gillespie (Kent)
- 222: R K Illingworth (Worcestershire)
- 223: M J Ikin (Essex)
- 224: W J Jarvis (Sussex)
- 225: R L Johnson (Middlesex)
- 226: M J Keane (Lancashire)
- 227: M J Keane (Lancashire)
- 228: A Kumble (Northamptonshire)
- 229: D R Law (Sussex)
- 230: P J Leatham (Gloucestershire)
- 231: J D Lavery (Sussex)
- 232: J Llewellyn (Durham)
- 233: M J McCague (Kent)
- 234: D E Malcolm (Derbyshire)
- 235: M A Mander (Northamptonshire)
- 236: P J Martin (Lancashire)
- 237: J J Maynard (Hampshire)
- 238: J J Maynard (Hampshire)
- 239: D J Maynard (Hampshire)
- 240: T A Murrin (Worcestershire)
- 241: P J Newport (Worcestershire)
- 242: G J Parsons (Lancashire)
- 243: M P Patel (Kent)
- 244: M P Pearson (Essex)
- 245: D B Pennington (Nottinghamshire)
- 246: A P Pike (Nottinghamshire)
- 247: R K Pison (Lancashire)
- 248: A C S. Pigott (Sussex)
- 249: J J Pike (Gloucestershire)
- 250: M V Radford (Worcestershire)
- 251: A R Roberts (Northamptonshire)
- 252: M A Robinson (Yorkshire)
- 253: I D Salisbury (Sussex)
- 254: V Salazar (Worcestershire)
- 255: C E W Silverwood (Yorkshire)
- 256: G C Smith (Warwickshire)
- 257: A M Smith (Gloucestershire)
- 258: V Salazar (Worcestershire)
- 259: S Smith (Gloucestershire)
- 260: H H Streak (Hampshire)
- 261: G S Steer (Derbyshire)
- 262: D J Stamp (Yorkshire)
- 263: M S. Such (Essex)
- 264: P Taylor (Northamptonshire)
- 265: D D Thomas (Gloucestershire)
- 266: M J Threlkeld (Hampshire)
- 267: H R J Trump (Somerset)
- 268: P R Tunnell (Middlesex)
- 269: A P van Tonder (Somerset)
- 270: C A Walsh (West Indies)
- 271: A Warner (Derbyshire)
- 272: R L Wallen (Gloucestershire)
- 273: C Williams (Gloucestershire)
- 274: W Wood (Durham)
- 275: G Yates (Lancashire)
- 276: R S Yeadley (Cardiff Univ and Middlesex)

Other players

- 058: D A Leach (Worcestershire)
- 059: J B Leach (Sussex)
- 060: J B Leach (Sussex)
- 061: M J Long (Kent)
- 062: G D Lloyd (Lancashire)
- 063: J J Longley (Durham)
- 064: G B Loyd (Nottinghamshire)
- 065: M A Lynch (Gloucestershire)
- 066: J J Macmillan (Oxford Univ and Lancashire)
- 067: M P Maynard (Gloucestershire)
- 068: A A Metcalfe (Yorkshire)
- 069: T C Middleton (Hampshire)
- 070: A J Miles (Worcestershire)
- 071: R R Montgomery (Northamptonshire)
- 072: T M Moody (Worcestershire)
- 073: H Morris (Gloucestershire)
- 074: J E Morris (Durham)
- 075: R S M. Morris (Hampshire)
- 076: M D Hoon (Yorkshire)
- 077: J C Nicholas (Hampshire)
- 078: T J C. O'Gorman (Derbyshire)
- 079: D P O'Leary (Warwickshire)
- 080: B Parker (Nottinghamshire)
- 081: T J. Penney (Warwickshire)
- 082: P R Pollard (Nottinghamshire)
- 083: G P Popley (Middlesex)
- 084: P J Pritchard (Essex)
- 085: M R Pritchard (Middlesex)
- 086: T A Radford (Middlesex)
- 087: J O Radcliffe (Sussex)
- 088: R B Richardson (West Indies)
- 089: D J Robinson (Essex)
- 090: P E Robinson (Lancashire)
- 091: R J Robinson (Northamptonshire)
- 092: A S. Rollins (Derbyshire)
- 093: M A Roseberry (Durham)
- 094: P D Sales (Northamptonshire)
- 095: M Savelly (Durham)
- 096: N Shano (Sussex)
- 097: A Shano (Sussex)
- 098: F Smith (Lancashire)
- 099: P A Smith (Hampshire)
- 100: N J Taylor (Kent)
- 101: J P Topley (Middlesex)
- 102: M P Topley (Sussex)
- 103: A Symonds (Gloucestershire)
- 104: N Taylor (Kent)
- 105: V P Topley (Hampshire)
- 106: G P Thorpe (Sussex)
- 107: S P Topley (Lancashire)
- 108: M E Trescothick (Somerset)
- 109: G T. Topley (Worcestershire)
- 110: M P Vaughan (Yorkshire)
- 111: M J Walker (Kent)
- 112: M J Ward (Kent)
- 113: R J. Warren (Northamptonshire)
- 114: M J. Warren (Northamptonshire)
- 115: M J. Warren (Northamptonshire)
- 116: A P. Wells (Sussex)
- 117: W P C. Weston (Worcestershire)

1. Only applications made through The Times Fantasy First XI telephone lines or on the official entry form will be accepted and will be received by the closing date.
2. They must be received by close of business on April 27, 1995. There is no limit to the number of telephone applications any person or household may make.
3. Only players published in our The Times Fantasy First XI list will be accepted. Incorrect entries null and void with no refund. No correspondence related to players selected will be entered into. Entries lost or found to be unacceptable will be void.
4. Entries must consist of 11 players from the published list and must include one overseas player and one rising star. Of your 11, five must be batsmen, one an all-rounder, one a wicketkeeper and four bowlers. No player can be picked twice.
5. The Times independent panel of experts will provide updated records

6. Each player's performance on a regular basis.
7. Ineligible or incomplete applications will not be accepted. This computer's record of the entry will be considered to be the entry.
8. The telephone entry method is only open to readers over the age of 18.
9. The first prize will go to the team with the highest total score of runs scored and wickets taken in the first-class games before tomorrow with the same total of points. The winner will be decided by the panel. We will have a computer's record of the entry will be considered to be the entry.
10. Promotional and publicity copy relating to The Times Fantasy First XI, form part of the terms and conditions of the competition.
11. Calls should be made to the panel of experts for the latest information on the competition.
12. The competition is not open to

Ward's stand hastens downfall of Surrey

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CANTERBURY (Kent won the toss; Kent (2pts) beat Surrey by 93 runs)

THERE are few finer sights in cricket than Canterbury on a sunlit spring day, but Surrey formed a jaundiced view of the old place yesterday. Their bowling was pitiful as Trevor Ward — with 125 — and Mark Benson put on 229 for Kent's first wicket and their batting did nothing to raise dejected spirits. At 12 for three, in hapless pursuit of 319, this game effectively ended long before tea.

Misguided though it can be to judge any team in April, Surrey's shortcomings can hardly be avoided. They have stroke-playing batsmen in abundance, so can never safely be counted out of a limited-over event, but their bowling is so threadbare that they will find four-day cricket an increasing trial.

Diamond Haynes, the veteran opening batsman, has been left out of West Indies squad to tour England this summer. The West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WIBC) has opted to persist with Stuart Williams and Sherwin Campbell in his place. The party of 17 includes a recall for Ian Bishop, the pace bowler.

Even Carl Rackemann, the new overseas player for whom they must wait until June, cannot camouflage any of the team's weaknesses, which are carried by old or straggling legs and spin which scarcely exists. Yesterday, a fretting Alex Smeeth, after a rain had to give a full 11 overs, had to give a full 11 overs.

Ward, who has been in the side ahead of Rackemann, once Graham Thorpe had reported fit, he dropped behind twice at backward point. The first, when the Kent captain had scored only eight, was a pardonable mix, but the second, 51 runs later, was not something he would care to review. By then, however, the opener had taken full toll of bowling that was too short and too wide, on a pitch of bluish cast and bounce. The die was cast. Benson's form was grim last

year and Kent depend upon him to anchor their back in the groove, as he was yesterday, he can make a vast difference to them.

Ward, a delightful foil to his captain's obduracy, played the ball late and confidently, never better than when square-cutting Benjamin for four to reach 50. He had no previous record in the Benson and Hedges Cup, but this one never looked in doubt.

At 181, the opener created a new, all-wicket record stand for Kent in the competition and they were still together 229 on the board, 17 overs remaining. Upwards of 350 was now the target and, in the circumstances, a healthy crowd was disappointed as the innings dropped away, eight wickets falling for 89 through strokes and running, and less than 100.

The openers had done an admirable job, but the manner of their dismissal set the trend. Benson heaved across the line and was bowled by a relieved Shahid. Next over, Ward, whose 125 had occupied only 140 balls, came up for a half-chance to drop himself and then sacrificed himself with a head-up stroke to mid-wicket.

Walker and de Silva, whose stroke-making could do much to make Kent's batting more advanced, were never out of a long strike but no boundary was struck between the 40 and 50 over. Cowdrey played some expansive shots, but then the final over produced three wickets and only two runs, leaving Kent a short of their best target by 35 overs crick.

To complete at all, Surrey required a smooth start. What followed did not quite qualify. Darren Bicknell was alerted by Cowdrey, off the third ball of the innings, and although Thorpe was missed, first ball, at mid-wicket, he managed only five before losing his off-stump. The bowler was Dean Headley, who had kept legless out of the side and operated at a sharp pace. When he squared up Ward and removed him leg-before for no run, Surrey were holed beyond repair.

Although Shahid salvaged something from the day, the rest was purgatory, for there is no relevance to an over match once the result is determined. Even against opponents in disguise, Kent's bowling and batting were purposeful. They have won nothing since the 1970s but there is good reason for optimism.



Cronje goes on the offensive as he plunders 158 against Lancashire yesterday

Cronje's efforts are in vain

By PATRICKSON

OLD TRAFFORD (Leicestershire won the toss; Lancashire (2pts) beat Leicestershire by five wickets)

LANCASHIRE, already considering disciplinary action against Wasim Akram over his failure to return from Pakistan in time for this match, looked as though they might have to take damages into account as well after Hanley Cronje had equalled the fifth-highest score in the 26-year history of the Benson and Hedges Cup.

Fortunately for Wasim, however, the Lancashire batsmen overcame the absence of their match-winning all-rounder by reaching the highest winning score by a team

batting second, overhauling Leicestershire's 312 for five with five wickets and three balls remaining. At least it should convince him that no one is indispensable.

Wasim was certainly missed when Cronje was batting. The new South Africa captain was on the back foot in England for most of last summer, making only 90 runs in six Test innings. Yesterday, in only his second competitive innings for Leicestershire, he was able to get onto the front foot with impunity to strike four sixes and 13 fours in a majestic 158.

Whitaker, who made 88, joined him in a third-wicket partnership of 175 in 22 overs, which cannot have done much for Glen Chapple's prospects of breaking into the England

team for the forthcoming one-day international against the West Indies. The new fast bowling hope conceded 72 in his 11 overs in front of Ray Illingworth and his co-selectors, Fred Titmus and David Graveney, who were there to talk to Michael Atherton prior to naming the captain on Sunday.

They were able to reassure themselves about the form of both Atherton and Crawley, although it was Fairbrother who won marks for bravery, retiring with a bruised thumb but declining to go to hospital for an X-ray and returning two wickets later, putting on 61 in only nine overs, with Lloyd, who was sufficiently inspired to win the match with a brilliant 81 off 73 balls, including a six and seven fours.

Knight makes it cup-holders' day

EDGBASTON (Warwickshire won the toss; Warwickshire (2pts) beat Durham by 91 runs)

ONCE Nick Knight and Roger Two had put on 128 in 19 overs for Warwickshire's third wicket, the odds against Durham winning this Benson and Hedges Cup match were long indeed (Jack Bailey writes). By the time that the cup-holders' innings was finished, even with a good glitch in blazing sunshine to encourage them, Durham were realistically out of the game.

besides counting the cost of a fine for taking nine minutes too long to bowl their overs.

Knight, who received the gold award at Edgbaston, an innings of 109 balls and 11 fours, taking him to his highest score in the competition. It was rich in promise, admirably attuned to the needs of his team. Two was equally sure, equally aggressive, reaching his 90 from only 99 balls.

If there had been a silver award, either Two or Reeve, with a fine all-round performance, would have won it. As

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Essex v Middlesex

CHELMSFORD (Middlesex won the toss; Middlesex (2pts) beat Essex by seven wickets)

ESSEX: G.A. Gooch b Watham 5, J.B. Lawes b Watham 5, N. Hussain c Pickett b Watham 5, R.C. Mann run out 5, D.D. J. Roper run out 5, M.A. Gurnam c Ramprakash b Fraser 13, M.C. Lott b Fraser 0, M.F. Williams b Fraser 0, P.M. Such run out 0, Extras (b 1, w 2, nb 0) 22, Total (8 wickets, 55 overs) 229

MIDDLESEX: M.W. Gatting run out 83, J.C. Poyley b Watham 15, M.R. Ramprakash b Watham 25, D.D. J. Roper b Watham 25, P.M. Such run out 0, Extras (b 0, w 0, nb 0) 0, Total (8 wickets, 50.1 overs) 228

W.R. Brown, D.J. Nash, J.E. Embury, M.A. Fotherham, A.R.C. Fraser and D. Pollard did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-21, 3-61, 4-164, 5-175, 6-178, 7-197, 8-197, 9-201, 10-201, 11-201, 12-201, 13-201, 14-201, 15-201, 16-201, 17-201, 18-201, 19-201, 20-201, 21-201, 22-201, 23-201, 24-201, 25-201, 26-201, 27-201, 28-201, 29-201, 30-201, 31-201, 32-201, 33-201, 34-201, 35-201, 36-201, 37-201, 38-201, 39-201, 40-201, 41-201, 42-201, 43-201, 44-201, 45-201, 46-201, 47-201, 48-201, 49-201, 50-201, 51-201, 52-201, 53-201, 54-201, 55-201, 56-201, 57-201, 58-201, 59-201, 60-201, 61-201, 62-201, 63-201, 64-201, 65-201, 66-201, 67-201, 68-201, 69-201, 70-201, 71-201, 72-201, 73-201, 74-201, 75-201, 76-201, 77-201, 78-201, 79-201, 80-201, 81-201, 82-201, 83-201, 84-201, 85-201, 86-201, 87-201, 88-201, 89-201, 90-201, 91-201, 92-201, 93-201, 94-201, 95-201, 96-201, 97-201, 98-201, 99-201, 100-201, 101-201, 102-201, 103-201, 104-201, 105-201, 106-201, 107-201, 108-201, 109-201, 110-201, 111-201, 112-201, 113-201, 114-201, 115-201, 116-201, 117-201, 118-201, 119-201, 120-201, 121-201, 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Kent v Surrey

CANTERBURY (Kent


Lynne
Truss

back. Didn't the Tracy family in *Thunderbirds* sometimes relax in Hawaiian shirts and sipping cocktails in their little wooden fests?

There was the usual stuff about tourism plundering only the bits of Polynesian culture they fancied — adopting the Tiki doll as a kind of gonk, for example. In the heyday of the craze, Walt Disney opened an Enchanted Tiki Room in Disneyland, full of mechanical parrots chirping a happy song. But such crass commodification of Polynesian tourism, it still goes on. At an ultra-expensive hotel on the lagoon at Bora Bora, I happen to know that the local craftsmen decorated the place with authentic carvings and rope-wrapping, while the American manager routinely followed their progress each evening with a chainsaw, slicing off all the authentic protruberances like a Victorian curator of antiquities at the British Museum.

CHANNEL 4

6.35 **Spiff and Hercules** (7125775)
 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (735911)
 9.00 **You Bet Your Life** (r) (s) (581152)
 9.30 **F.L.H.I.: The Big Lift** (1950, b/w) starring Montgomery Clift and Paul Douglas. A "fact" drama about the conflict between two American pilots attempting supplies to Soviet-blockaded Berlin. Directed by George Seaton (38445030)
 11.40 **Down To Sussex: A British Rail travelpogue**, made in 1965 (7593404)
 12.00 **House To House** with Maya Evrni (45088)
 12.30 **Sesame Street**. The guest is the flautist Jay Gelwig (r) (21249) 1.30 **The Herbs follow: Daisy, Dug and Daley** (r) (86423)
 2.00 **Night Mail** (b/w). A 1936 tribute to the overnight postal services. With poetry by W.H. Auden and music by Benjamin Britten (58687930)
 2.25 **F.L.M.I.: The Foreman Went To France** (1942, b/w) starring Clifford Evans, Tommy Trinder, Gordon Jackson and Robert Morley. Second World War drama about a factory foreman who travels to France to try to save vital equipment from falling into the possession of the advancing Germans. Directed by Charles Frend. (Teletext) (125238)
 4.00 **Journeymen**. Clive Gurnell admires the swan at Abbotsbury (s) (510)
 4.30 **Fifteen To One**. (Teletext) (s) (794)
 5.00 **Ricki Lake**. The guests are women who claim to be happy to be left. (Teletext) (832387)
 5.45 **Terrycorns** (920591)
 6.00 **All American Girl**. Comedy series. (Teletext) (559) 6.30 **Boy Meets World**. American sitcom. (Teletext) (s) (539)
 7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Teletext) and weather (789) 7.50 **The Show** (759826)
 8.00 **Brookside**. Beth and Mike think they know what sending the hate mail. (Teletext) (s) (2152)
 8.30 **The Great Outdoors**. The fourth in the six-part alfresco activities magazine. (Teletext) (s) (595)



David Jessel investigates (9.00pm)

- 9.00 CHOICE Trial and Error.** (Teletext) (1133)
- 10.00 ER.** American hospital drama series. (Teletext) (706268)
- 10.55 The Best of the Tube.** The guests include Luzzi, Madness, Swing Out Sister and Victor (514648)
- 11.30 Cheers (r).** (Teletext) (54591)
- 12.00 The White Room (r)** (32805)
- 1.00am Mojo Working.** A profile of Chuck Berry (r) (6105263)
- 1.35 The Coffin Factory.** Animation made in 1966 by Czech surrealist Jan Svankmajer (8709282)
- 1.45 Street Of Crocodiles.** Animation directed by Brothers Quay (6740824)
- 2.10 PILIC: Wife, Doctor and Nurse** (1937, b/w) stars Lovella Young, Warner Baxter and Virginia Bruce in comedy about a New York socialite who marries Park Avenue doctor. Walter Lang directs (23651) Ends at 3.40

SATELLITE

[illegible]

10:00 My Two Dads (Hollywood)
 10:30 (10:30) 7:00 Summer's Holiday
 11:00 (11:00) 7:30 The Best of
 12:00 (12:00) 8:00 FILM: Ruth Rendell
 12:30 (12:30) 8:30 The Best of
 13:00 (13:00) 9:00 The Best of
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WEDNESDAY APRIL 26 1995

Hendry's consistency breaks O'Sullivan



Hendry: equalled record

BY PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY equalled one of the numerous records held by Steve Davis, his great rival, and took a significant step towards breaking another by beating Ronnie O'Sullivan 13-8 in the quarter-finals of the Embassy world snooker championship at the Crucible Theatre yesterday.

The Scot, attempting to become the first player to win four successive titles since the championship moved to Sheffield in 1977, has not lost in the game's blue riband event since a 13-11 defeat by Steve James four years ago.

Since then, Hendry has strung together 18 consecutive victories to emulate the unbeaten run compiled by Davis between the first round of the 1987 championship and his semi-final loss against Jimmy White in 1990.

Like all outstanding champions, Hendry, who has occupied the world No 1 spot for five years, possesses the uncanny ability to produce his best when it matters most. O'Sullivan, a realistic pretender to Hendry's crown, found that to his cost.

"The tougher the opponent, the better I play; they motivate me," Hendry said. "I've been here long enough to realise you can't give special attention to one particular player, but Ronnie was definitely one of the favourites."

Hendry compiled a century break of 103 and eight half-centuries during the first two sessions on Monday, yet O'Sullivan stuck to him limpet-like. Overnight, Hendry led 9-7, but O'Sullivan won the opening frame on the resumption to halve that deficit.

The crucial moment arrived in the eighteenth frame. O'Sullivan, on a

break of 20 and in a position of considerable scoring potential, potted the blue, took the cue-ball into the pack and was unfortunate to pot simultaneously one of the reds that he had intentionally developed.

From the chance presented to him, Hendry constructed an 88 break which served to throw open the floodgates. He added runs of 84 and a magnificent 133 clearance, which superseded John Parrott's 129 as the highest break of the championship so far to put Hendry in line to collect a £16,000 bonus.

"This one result hasn't won me the title by any means, but I always seem to play better and get stronger as the championship progresses. I'm very confident," Hendry, who has rejoined the coaching guru, Frank Callan, said.

O'Sullivan has often been accused of lacking respect for certain of the game's well-established players, but

Semi-finals
2.30pm: A. Hicks (Eng) v G. Wilson (Eng) or N. Bond (Eng)
7.30pm: S. Hendry (Scot) v J. White (Eng) or J. Parrott (Eng)

that criticism does not apply to his attitude towards Hendry. "Stephen's class. You can't afford to commit any kind of error against him or you'll get punished," he said.

Andy Hicks, arguably the most famous son of the small Devon market town of Tavistock, since Sir Francis Drake, continued his giant-killing run by unexpectedly beating Peter Ebdon, the Irish Masters champion, 13-8.

Hicks laid the foundation for victory by establishing an 11-5 overnight advantage and breaks of 43 and 55 in the concluding session

helped him to become the first Crucible debutant to reach the semi-finals since Terry Griffiths in 1979.

Brimming with confidence after disposing of Davis in the first round, Hicks enjoyed a benevolent run of the balls: there is nothing now to stop him beating Nigel Bond or Gary Wilkinson over 31 frames.

Hicks, a semi-finalist in the 1993 European Open and the Skoda Grand Prix last year, is guaranteed £57,000 — a cheque which almost triples his entire tournament earnings for the season.

"The money is great but the big thing is that I'm involved in the semi-finals, playing at the Crucible in a one-table set-up," Hicks, 21, said. "Ever since I left school I have practised for six or eight hours a day and this is something to show for it."

Ebdon, regarded beforehand as a potential finalist from the weaker bottom half of the draw, could not

conceal his disappointment. "I thought I had a real opportunity to capture the title and maybe I put myself under too much pressure."

The outcome had implications for next season's rankings in that Hicks is now only one win away from securing a place in the top 16 and that Ebdon has failed to replace Darren Morgan in the elite top eight automatically included in the circuit's leading invitation events.

The identity of Hendry's semi-final opponent was difficult to predict as Parrott fought back from deficits of 6-2 and 8-4 to pull level at 8-8 with White entering the final session. Parrott, who had a fruitful afternoon, accumulated a 123 break in the penultimate frame and exhibited far greater consistency than his generally erratic rival.

Quarter-finals (England, unless stated): Ronnie O'Sullivan (Scot) vs J. O'Sullivan (Scot); A. Hicks (Eng) vs P. Ebdon (Irish); J. White (Eng) vs J. Parrott (Eng); J. White (Eng) vs J. Parrott (Eng).

Bevan announces his arrival at Yorkshire

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

HEADINGLEY (Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire (2pts) beat Worcestershire by six wickets

THERE are few better ways of introducing yourself to a curious public than by playing a match-winning innings in your first competitive game. Michael Bevan, the New South Wales left-hander, steadied Yorkshire's ship in troublesome waters yesterday with 83 not out in the Benson and Hedges Cup so that they eventually overtook Worcestershire with some comfort.

It was an important win for Yorkshire, who have often thrown games away from a similar position. It was also important for Bevan, who has followed the pioneering path of Sachin Tendulkar and Richie Richardson to Headingley. Neither of those established Test batsmen earned their keep in terms of runs scored. Bevan, promising but not as yet proven at Test level, may provide more solid fare.

He shared a stand of 99 for the fourth wicket with Craig White after Byas, unwisely seeking a run to mid-on, failed to beat Curtis's throw. Yorkshire were 66 for three at that stage, by no means certain winners, but Bevan kept his

head and picked up the gold award, ahead of Graeme Hick, whose 109 equalled his best score in the competition.

Bevan ended the match in the grand manner, driving Illingworth high into the football stand. On a bracing, windy night, he was anxious not to prolong the contest any longer than he had to and he should, in time, give Yorkshire good value, for his holding no less than his batting.

It was not one of Hick's



Your last chance to play Fantasy First XI. Page 40

more fluent innings, not that he will bother much about that. At this stage of his passage to full physical recovery, after resting the injured back that forced him home early from Australia, any time spent at the crease is time well spent.

He did not move with complete freedom and his strokeplay, which is never elegant at the best of times, frequently looked cramped. As Worcestershire ran out of overs, Hick did not assume the dominant role that a dressing room expects of its senior batsman.

That he reached his century was due entirely to Yorkshire benevolence. He made 16 when Hartley, who bowled an excellent first spell, found the edge of his bat. It should have been a straightforward slip catch for Byas. Instead, he threw it to the floor. He had more time to reflect on his folly than Moxon, the captain, who granted Hick another life on 78. This was a more awkward chance at mid-off, but it was another painful sight for Hartley.

Gough went past the bat in the morning, when he swung and cut the ball to good effect, and took his two wickets when he returned at the death. Stemp operated as Illingworth was to do later, firing in at the right-handers leg stump. Riveting stuff. As is his custom, Stemp was bowling in dark glasses. Behind the stumps, Blakey sported another pair and, at square leg, umpire Burgess was similarly shaded. At any moment, Hick must have feared someone approaching with a violin case to make him an offer he could not refuse.

WORCESTERSHIRE
W.P.C. Weston c Grayson b Robinson 10
T.S. Curran b White 10
G.A. Hick run out 109
T.M. Moody to Harter 10
M.G. Bennett not out 12
D.A. Lashford not out 12
T.S. Curran c Moxon b Gough 12
S.R. Lampitt not out 12
Extras (b 8, lb 9, w 7) 24
Total (8 wickets, 58 overs) 208
P.J. Harrison, R.H. Illingworth and N.V. Radford did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-48, 3-149, 4-181, 5-192, 6-204.
BOWLING: Gough 11-2-27-2; Robinson 11-2-23-1; Harter 11-3-35-1; White 11-0-68-1; Stemp 11-2-38-4.

YORKSHIRE
M.D. Moxon c Newport 7
M.P. Vaughan c Illingworth b Lampitt 14
D. Byas run out 29
M.G. Bennett not out 29
C. White c Rhodes b Radford 43
R.H. J. Stemp not out 17
Extras (b 2, lb 1, nb 14) 17
Total (4 wickets, 61.4 overs) 212
A.P. Grayson, D. Gough, P.J. Harrison, R.G. Stemp and M.A. Radford did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-31, 3-65, 4-168.
BOWLING: Newport 10-0-49-1; Moody 3-1-9-0; Lampitt 11-2-29-1; Radford 11-0-68-1; Illingworth 9-4-1-37-0; Hayes 7-0-45-0.
Umpires: G.I. Burgess and D.J. Conant.

Sun shines on Kent, page 41
Scoreboards, page 41



Gough can only watch as Weston, the Worcestershire batsman, panishes a loose ball by hitting it for a fluent four at Headingley yesterday

Nicely paced by Gatting

BY IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (Middlesex won toss): Middlesex (2pts) beat Essex by seven wickets

MIDDLESEX are likely to be one of the counties to reach the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup after gaining their second successive victory yesterday. An unbeaten 93 off 119 balls by Mike Gatting saw them to a comfortable victory over Essex.

From the first 50 balls he received, the former England captain scored a mere 17 runs. From the next 50 he struck 54 and hit, in all, 11 fours. Weekes, who made a half-century that was his first in this competition, and who also took two wickets, was given the gold award.

So Essex, who also lost on Sunday, and whose wicketkeeper, Garnham, announced he will retire at the end of the season, must win their three remaining matches to have a chance of qualifying.

They were given a decent enough start by Prichard, whose 65 came off 97 balls, but faltered when Iranli and Hussain were out at an important stage of the innings.

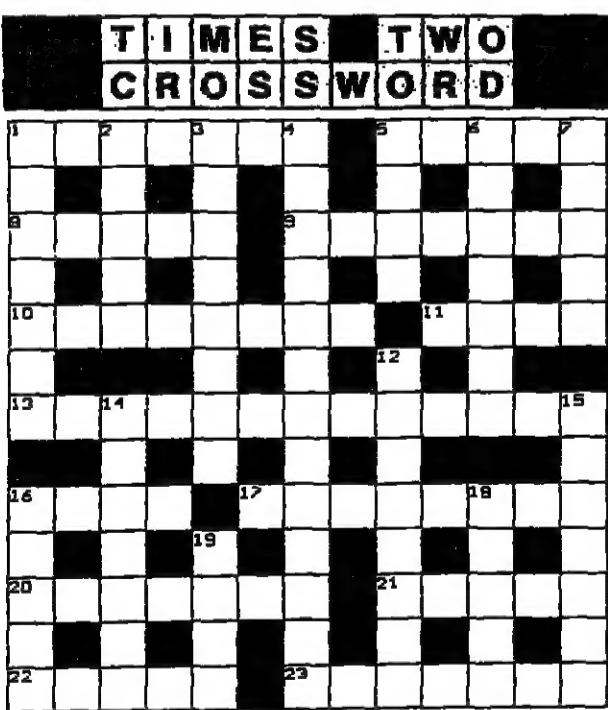
One was run out through a hopeless misunderstanding and the other taken at deep mid-wicket, looking to loft Weekes over the boundary. That Essex finished with any sort of total owed much to an unbeaten 35 by Robinson, a thickset 22-year-old from Braintree, who took 21 off the last over, watched by Keith Fletcher, whom Essex are to offer a role as a kind of cricketing overlord once he has resolved his compensation from the Test and County Cricket Board.

Gloucestershire's left-arm seamer, Mike Smith, took six for 36 as Hampshire were dismissed for 162 at Southampton. Heath Streak, the Zimbabwe fast bowler, raised Hampshire's hopes with two

quick wickets before a partnership of 98 in 35 overs between Tony Wright and Robert Dawson settled the nerves and laid the foundations for a Gloucestershire victory by four wickets.

Glamorgan, whose worst fears were realised when all-rounder Otis Gibson was named in the West Indies tour party, proved far too strong for Combined Universities, who were unable to cope with Darren Thomas, who took six for 20.

Minor Counties, beaten by nine wickets by Lancashire, went down by the same margin to Nottinghamshire while Malcolm Marshall followed some tight bowling by top-scoring for Scotland, hitting 36 of their 174 in reply to Derbyshire's 220 for six. Ireland provided the highest scorer of the match at Hove, Michael Rae making 73 of his side's 198 for nine in reply to Sussex's 261 for eight.



No 455

ACROSS

- 1 Russian chief, had cocktail (7)
- 2 Potter (about) (5)
- 3 Infants (5)
- 4 Raise false alarm (3,4)
- 5 Media fund-raising extravaganza (8)
- 6 Compassion (4)
- 7 Arne "Never shall be slaves" song (4,9)
- 8 Threatening whisper: sound of derision (4)
- 9 No-blame accident (2,2,3)
- 10 Actual (if not official) (2,5)
- 11 Down: racecourse (5)
- 12 From the sun (5)
- 13 Performer of operations (7)

DOWN

- 1 Organised criminal (7)
- 2 Identifying tag (5)
- 3 Glass vial for lab (4-4)
- 4 Top bravery award (8,5)
- 5 County of NW Ireland (4)
- 6 One from Oxford (7)
- 7 Sizeable, forceful (5)
- 8 Inflictor of deliberate damage (8)
- 9 Driven by strong desire (7)
- 10 Stormach (7)
- 11 Greek underworld (5)
- 12 Beau -- generous action: P.C. Wren novel (5)
- 13 Steep outcrop; blemish (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 454

ACROSS: 5 Purpose-built 8 Brogue 9 Shanty 10 Haze 12 Braille 14 Cnried 15 Temp 17 Filter 18 Legion 20 Medicine ball
DOWN: 1 Apprehensive 2 Prig 3 Berserk 4 Putative 5 Oxen 7 Little People 11 Turn tail 13 Geordie 16 Sloe 19 Goad

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Conner battles on alone against all odds

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL
IN SAN DIEGO

WITH one final throw of the dice, Dennis Conner was conspiring to defeat the forces of nature and two campaign rivals last night in an attempt to win the right to compete in the America's Cup for a record sixth time.

The American yachtsman was also suffering a series of death-threats from an unidentified man whom police and security officials believe has been stalking the four-time Cup winner for several days. His office and gift shop both received telephoned threats during the showdown between his *Stars & Stripes* yacht and that of *Young America*, skippered by Kevin Mahaney, on Monday, and later a mysterious electrical fire broke out at his home. Nobody was hurt in the fire, which investigators believe

was caused by an electrical fault, but the incident could affect Conner.

Had he won on Monday, he and his crew would have sailed straight into the America's Cup series against the Peter Blake-led New Zealand challenger, but he still had a second chance last night if he could defeat Bill Koch's *Mighty Mary*.

Unfortunately for him, Conner knew that he and his crew were not just up against one boat, but a concerted effort to knock him out by both Koch and *Young America*, which successfully combined their support teams on Monday to provide the race-winning weather information to Conner's opponent.

Both rivals were doing the same thing again last night, despite heated protests from Conner's camp on Monday, when they both sent helicopters to study the course and pooled weather information in the hope that, by defeating Conner's

yacht, they will force a sail-off between their own yachts for the right to defend the Cup.

Unfair? Almost certainly. However, as Conner found, after scouring the rule book, there is nothing illegal in helping a rival before the start gun.

Tom Whidden, Conner's veteran tactician, said as much after their 53sec defeat on Monday, when the first wind shift, predicted correctly by the *Young America/Mighty Mary* weather team, proved the turning point in the race.

"If it was illegal, we would protest, but even if it is not, in spirit, what they are doing is wrong," Whidden said. "I have been in six America's Cups and never, never, has a defence committee allowed two competitors to gang up and try to beat the other."

Results, page 42

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